

US DAD IN HOT CAR DEATH IS CHARGED WITH MURDER: AP Page 5



LEGAL OR NOT, THE POT BUSINESS IN US IS SEEN AS WACKY

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On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Friday, September 5, 2014



FILE -- Joan Rivers in New York, March 2, 2010. Rivers, the raspy loudmouth who pounced on America's obsessions with flab, face-lifts, body hair and other blemishes of neurotic life, including her own, in five decades of caustic comedy that propelled her from nightclubs to television to international stardom, died in New York on Sept. 4, 2014. She was 81.

(Fred R. Conrad/The New York Times)



US and UK seek coalition to go after Islamic State

JULIE PACE

AP White House Correspondent

NEWPORT, Wales (AP) — President Barack Obama and British Prime Minister David Cameron pressed fellow NATO leaders Thursday to confront the "brutal and poisonous" Islamic State militant group that is wreaking havoc in Iraq and Syria — and urged regional partners like Jordan and Turkey to join the effort as well.

As leaders of the Western alliance gathered for a two-day summit, Obama and Cameron worked to begin forming a coalition of nations that could combat the extremists through military power, diplomatic pressure and economic penalties.

"Those who want to adopt an isolationist approach misunderstand the nature of security in the 21st century," they wrote in a joint editorial published as the meetings began. "Developments in other parts of the world, particularly in Iraq and Syria, threaten our security at home."

While some NATO leaders talked tough about the threat posed by the Islamic State group, the alliance made no specific pledges of action. NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said he believed the broader international community "has an obligation to stop the Islamic State from advancing further" and would seriously consider requests for assistance, particularly from the Iraqi government.

The Islamic State group moved up the list of international priorities as the militants pressed through Iraq with lighting speed earlier this year. The group, which seeks to create a caliphate, or Islamist nation-state, in the Mideast, is considered even more merciless toward its enemies than the al-Qaida terror network. and intelligence officials across the world warn that with hundreds of Westerners fighting for them, it may soon seek to seed its violence beyond its declared borders.

The U.S. began launching airstrikes against militant targets in Iraq last month, with Britain joining American forces in humanitarian airdrops to besieged minority populations. The militants' killing of two American journalists inside Syria has raised discussion of targeting the group there as well.

White House officials said they did not expect NATO to commit to a military mission against the group during the summit. Still, they raised the prospect that the end of NATO's combat mission in Afghanistan — an effort that has consumed the alliance for more than a decade — could allow member states to focus their attention elsewhere.

Indeed, the threat posed by the Islamic State overshadowed some of the NATO summit's official agenda, which was intended to focus on celebrating the Afghan drawdown of troops and constructing a rapid response force on the alliance's eastern flank that could serve as a deterrent to Russian aggression. Obama and European leaders met with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko in a show of solidarity with his embattled nation.

Beyond direct military action, the White House said it was also seeking commitments from allies to send weapons, ammunition and other assistance to Western-backed Syrian rebels and to Iraqi forces.

Germany moved in that direction Thursday, with the government announcing that it had sent a first planeload of military equipment to the Kurds in Iraq's north, including helmets, protective vests, field glasses and mine-searching devices.

As NATO meets;

Ukraine conflict holds center stage

STEVEN ERLANGER **JULIE DAVIS** © 2014 New York Times NEWPORT, Wales - With Ukraine the primary focus of the NATO summit meeting here Thursday, the Ukrainian president, Petro Poroshenko, said he would seek to establish "a bilateral cease-fire" Friday between Ukraine's armed forces and pro-Russian separatists that would lay the foundation for a "stage-by-

party" to the conflict. Putin has repeated that claim lately in the face of accusations from U.S. President Barack Obama and NATO leaders that regular Russian troops are fighting in support of the separatists inside Ukraine.

A rebel leader told the Russian news agency Interfax that "if there is a real ceasefire on their part, then maybe we will also cease fire." Andrei Purgin, a leader of the self-proclaimed

order is the central issue for NATO, with its focus on European security. Through some substantive measures and some symbolic ones, the alliance wants to calm members like the Baltic states and Poland and also make clear to Moscow that the principle of collective defense remains sacrosanct and is credible.

The principal measure NATO is expected to support is the establishment of an upgraded rapid reac-



U.S. President Barack Obama, fourth from left, is seated at a table with, from left to right: France's President François Hollande; Ukraine President Petro Poroshenko; British Prime Minister David Cameron; German Chancellor Angela Merkel; and Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi as they meet about Ukraine at the NATO summit at Celtic Manor in Newport, Wales, Thursday, Sept. 4, 2014. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry is seated at rear left.

(AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)

Poroshenko met in the morning with leaders of the United States, Britain, France, Germany and Italy and said any cease-fire would be conditional on a planned meeting going ahead in Minsk, Belarus, on Friday of envoys from Ukraine, Russia and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. If the meeting takes place, he said, he will "call on the general staff to set up a bilateral cease-fire, and we hope that the implementation of the peace plan will beain tomorrow."

Other cease-fire efforts have foundered, and President Vladimir Putin of in the face of their threats." Russia has said the negotiations are not his problem, sia and its challenge to the

Donetsk People's Republic, said, "We will see how they observe their cease-fire." The summit is taking place at a moment of rising chal-

lenges to NATO practically across the globe, a point Britain's prime minister, David Cameron, the summit host, made in his opening remarks Thursday.

In a joint op-ed article Thursday in The Times of London, Obama and Cameron called on NATO to reject "isolationist" impulses and confront the rising terrorist threat posed by the Islamic State group, saying that the United States and Britain "will not be cowed by barbaric killers" or "weaken But how to deal with Rusbecause Russia is "not a post-Cold War European

tion force of some 4,000 troops able to deploy to prepositioned bases and equipment in the east within 48 hours. Without using the word "permanent," which would violate an agreement with Moscow, Obama and Cameron called for keeping a "persistent" NATO defensive presence in Eastern Europe to show Russia that the alliance is serious about the defense of all of its members, and expressed support for the rapid-response force including land, air, maritime and special forces "that could deploy anywhere in the world at very short notice." In written comments made to the morning meeting on Ukraine, Prime Minister Matteo Renzi of Italy said, 🔲





Ex-Virginia governor, wife guilty of public corruption

LARRY O'DELL **Associated Press**

RICHMOND, Virginia (AP) — Former Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell and his wife were convicted Thursday of using his office to promote a dietary supplement in exchange for gifts in a public corruption case that derailed the career of a onetime rising Republican star. A federal jury convicted Bob McDonnell of 11 of the 13 counts he faced; Maureen McDonnell was convicted of nine of the 13 counts she had faced. Sentencing was scheduled for Jan. 6. Both bowed their heads and wept as a chorus of "guilty" kept coming from the court clerk.

McDonnell was widely considered a possible running mate for presidential candidate Mitt Romney in 2012. The couple left the courtroom separately and remained apart. Bob McDonnell left first and walked into a witness waiting room; Maureen McDonnell came out later, hugging one of her daughters while weeping loudly. She went into a separate waiting room.

The couple was charged with doing favors for a wealthy vitamin executive in exchange for more than \$165,000 in gifts and loans. They also were charged with submitting fraudulent bank loan applications, and Maureen McDonnell was charged with one count of obstruction.

The trial was a sensation in political circles in Washington, just over the Virainia state line, as lawyers for McDonnell and his wife provided intimate details of the breakdown of their marriage in hopes of convincing jurors that they could not have conspired because they were barely speaking. "This is a difficult and disappointing day for

citizens. Public service frequently requires sacrifice and almost always requires financial sacrifice," said Dana Boente, the U.S. attorney for the eastern district

the commonwealth and its of Virginia. The former governor testified in his own defense, insisting that he provided nothing more than routine political courtesies to former Star Scientific CEO Jonnie Williams. Maureen

McDonnell did not testify. His testimony and that of others exposed embarrassing details about Maureen McDonnell's erratic behavior and the couple's marital woes as the defense sug-

gested they could not have conspired because they were barely speaking. Williams testified under im-

munity that he spent freely on the McDonnells in order to secure their help promoting his supposed cure-all, the tobacco-derived antiinflammatory Anatabloc. Among the gifts were nearly \$20,000 in designer clothing and accessories for Maureen McDonnell, a \$6,500 Rolex watch for her husband, \$15,000 in catering for one of their daughter's wedding, free vacations and golf outings. Williams also provided three loans totaling \$120,000.

As the gifts were being given, the McDonnells attended various Anatabloc promotional events and hosted a luncheon at the governor's mansion that the company billed as a product launch. Williams also was allowed to invite several of his associates to a reception for Virginia health care leaders at the mansion, and McDonnell arranged meetings for him with two state health officials as he was taking preliminary steps to seek state-backed research on Anatabloc.



Former Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell, center, is mobbed by media as he gets into a car with his son, Bobby, right, after he and his wife, former first lady Maureen McDonnell, were convicted on multiple counts of corruption at Federal Court in Richmond, Va., Thursday, Sept. 4, 2014. A federal jury in Richmond convicted McDonnell on 11 of the 13 counts he faced; Maureen McDonnell was convicted on nine of the 13 counts she had faced. Sentencing was scheduled for Jan. 6.

(AP Photo/Steve Helber)

Christie, Mexico to partner on higher education

JILL COLVIN **Associated Press**

MEXICO CITY (AP) — New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie seems to have left his usual bravado at home, packing instead a more humble tone for his trade mission to Mexico.

Again and again, Christie has said that a key part of his mission is to listen and learn all he can from those he meets, and he began Thursday with a breakfast with the Mexican Business Council, a group of CEOs of Mexico's largest companies.

The governor, who is weigh-

ing a run for president in 2016, said the group had spent time discussing business opportunities for Mexican companies in New Jersey as well as the importance of prioritizing and fostering the relationship between the U.S., Mexico and Canada.

"The only way that happens is to spend the time that's necessary to develop these relationships of trust and understanding," he told them. "You will not take advantage of opportunities you don't trust. You cannot take advantage of opportunities you don't understand."

While its official purpose is to foster economic investments between New Jersey and Mexico, the trip is seen by many as an opportunity for Christie to burnish his foreign policy credentials ahead of a potential run and to build his relationship with Latino voters. Many are watching to see how Christie's famously brash personal style translates to the diplomatic stage, where restraint and careful words are often called for.

"I'm thrilled to continue to be on a tour where I'm not

only expressing to these leaders some of my own views that I've developed over time, but just as importantly, spending a lot of time listening to them about their views of how business can grow and prosper in our two areas," he told the business lead-

In the courtyard of the grand Secretariat of Public Education building on Thursday afternoon, Christie signed an agreement to establish greater collaboration between higher education institutions of New Jersey and Mexico.

☐





Justice Dept. announces probe of town's police

ERIC TUCKER Associated Press WASHINGTON (AP)

The Justice Department launched a broad investigation Thursday into the police department in Ferguson, Missouri, following said he and his department

city jail. The police departinvestigation.

In announcing the action, Attorney General Eric Holder, who visited the St. Louis suburb two weeks ago,

partment says it has inment said it welcomed the vestigated more than 20 police departments in the past five years, more than twice the number of cases opened in the previous five years.

Besides the investigation

times violent demonstrations that followed the shooting.

Police have said the shooting came after a scuffle that broke out after Wilson told Brown and a friend to move out of the street and onto a sidewalk. Police say Wilson was pushed into his squad car and physically assaulted.

Some witnesses have reported seeing Brown's arms in the air before the shooting in an act of surrender. An autopsy paid for by Brown's family concluded that he was shot six times, twice in the head.

The FBI is conducting a civil rights investigation into the shooting and a local grand jury is also evaluating the case.

investigation nounced Thursday will focus on a police department that is predominantly white, even though Ferguson is about 70 percent black.

Some in Ferguson have said police disproportionately target black motorists during traffic stops, something Holder said particularly concerned him.

A 2013 report by the Missouri attorney general's office found that Ferauson police stopped and arrested black drivers nearly twice as often as white likely to find contraband among the black drivers.

Sen. Claire McCaskill, a Missouri Democrat, called the investigation "a step in the right direction." Civil rights advocates championed the move, too, but said more needs to be done.



Attorney General Eric Holder, center, takes questions from a member of the media during a news conference at the Justice Department in Washington, Thursday, Sept. 4, 2014, to announce the Justice Department's civil rights division will launch a broad civil rights investigation in the Ferguson, Mo., Police Department. Joining Holder are Acting Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights Division Molly Moran, left, and Ronald Davis, director of the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS).

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

the shooting last month of had heard numerous con- into the Ferguson police an unarmed black 18-year-

goes beyond an existing federal probe into the Aug. 9 shooting, will look for patterns of discrimination within the predominantly white department and focus on how officers use force, search and arrest suspects, and treat inmates at the lack of diversity on the police force.

broader Justice Department effort to investigate troubled police departments and, when pervasive problems are found. institute changes. The de-

cerns from people there force, the Justice Departold by a white police offi- about police practices, a ment says it will also work history of "deep mistrust" with the St. Louis County The investigation, which of law enforcement and a police department, which motorists but were also less trains officers from Ferguson and other local depart-The inquiry is part of a ments, to review theuse of force, the handling of mass demonstrations and other aspects of policing. It will also conduct a report on the county's response to the two weeks of some-

Detroit official claims controls were not good

COREY WILLIAMS Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — The chief financial officer Detroit hired just before the city was allowed into bankruptcy testified Thursday that the office had trouble keeping track of how much money was coming in and going out.

A computer system designed to track the city's finances had not been fully implemented when he took the job in late November, John Hill Jr. said during the third day of Detroit's bankruptcy trial, the largest municipal bankruptcy in U.S. history...

The biggest risk is actually not knowing whether all of the transactions have been recorded in the system, and also not knowing on a quick, fast pace whether revenue was coming in as they were intended or expenditures going out."

Detroit wants to cut \$12 billion in unsecured debt to about \$5 billion through its plan of adjustment, which federal Judge Steven Rhodes must approve. Most creditors, including more than 30,000 retirees and city employees, have endorsed it.

"We'll do everything we can to adhere to that,' Hill said of the city's debtrestructuring plan.

"If the revenues don't come in as intended in the plan, we'll have to make adjustments. We definitely believe the plan gives us a road map to how we should be operating."



Dad in Georgia hot car death charged with murder

KATE BRUMBACK Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — More than two months after his son's death in a hot car, a Georgia man who prosecutors say sat in his office exchanging nude photos with women while his son languished for hours was

prove Harris intentionally left his son Cooper in the hot car to die.

The eight-count indictment also includes charges related to sexually explicit exchanges prosecutors say Harris had with an underage girl.

"Today was another step

cide before then whether to seek the death penalty. Harris has been in jail since his arrest the day his 22-month-old son died. Harris' lawyer, Maddox Kilgore, is set to hold a news conference later Thursday. Harris has told police he was supposed to drive his

at least into the high 80s. The medical examiner's office has said the boy died of hyperthermia — essentially overheating — and has called his death a homicide.

The investigation is still ongoing, Reynolds said.

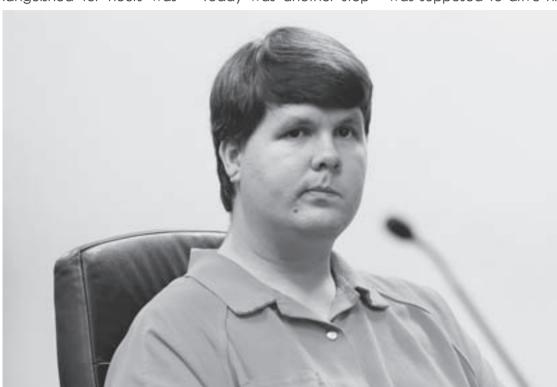
"The evidence in the case has led us to this point," he said. "Whether or not it leads us to anyone else remains to be answered." Prosecutors have questioned Harris' wife, Leanna, and she has hired a criminal defense attorney, but no charges have been filed against her.

In June, police had charged Harris with felony murder and second-degree child cruelty — charges that imply negligence but not intent. The new charges supersede those.

Atlanta defense attorney Page Pate, who's not involved in the Harris case, said the malice murder charge means prosecutors likely have more convincing evidence than they presented during the July bond and probable cause hearing.

"There were a lot of suggestions about malice murder but no smoking gun," he said.

During the three-hour hearing, prosecutor Chuck Boring questioned a police detective at length, outlining evidence he said proved that Harris intentionally left his young boy in the hot SUV. But defense attorney Kilgore argued that the evidence was insufficient and that the boy's death was a tragic accident.



Justin Ross Harris, the father of a toddler who died after police say he was left in a hot car for about seven hours, weeps as he sits at his bond hearing in Cobb County Magistrate Court, in Marietta, Ga. On Thursday,, Sept. 4, 2014, a Cobb County grand jury indicted Harris on multiple charges, including malice murder, felony murder and cruelty to children. The malice murder charge indicates that prosecutors believe that Harris intentionally left his son Cooper in the hot car to die.

(AP Photo/Marietta Daily Journal, Kelly J. Huff)

charged with murder on Thursday.

A Cobb County grand jury indicted Justin Ross Harris on multiple charges, including malice murder, felony murder and cruelty to children. The malice murder charge indicates that prosecutors intend to

in a long process," Cobb County District Attorney Vic Reynolds said. "We look forward to the case running its course and, ultimately, justice being served in this matter."

Harris will be arraigned in the next few weeks, and Reynolds said he will deson to day care the morning of June 18 but drove to work without realizing that the child was strapped into a car seat in the back.

Police have said the toddler was left in the vehicle for about seven hours on a day when temperatures in the Atlanta area reached



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Court rules against gay marriage bans in 2 states

MICHAEL TARM Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — A U.S. appeals court ruled Thursday that same-sex marriage bans in Wisconsin and Indiana violate the U.S. Constitution, in another in a series of courtroom wins for gaymarriage advocates.

The unanimous decision by the three-judge panel of the U.S. 7th Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago criticized the justifications both states gave for the bans, several times singling out the argument that marriage between a man and a woman is tradition. There are, the court noted, good and bad traditions.

"Bad traditions that are historical realities such as cannibalism, foot-binding, and suttee, and traditions

good nor bad — such as se therefore cannot be a

that from a public-policy trick-or-treating on Hallowstandpoint are neither een," it said. "Tradition per



Bart Peterson, left, and Pete McNamara are married by Marion County Clerk Beth White in Indianapolis after a federal judge struck down a state ban on same-sex marriage. A U.S. appeals court in Chicago ruled Thursday, Sept. 4, 2014 that gay marriage bans in Wisconsin and Indiana violate the U.S. Constitution thereby bumping the number of states where gay marriage will be legal from 19 to 21.

(AP Photo/Michael Conroy)

lawful ground for discrimination-regardless of the age of the tradition."

Same-sex marriage is legal in 19 states and the District of Columbia. Bans that have been overturned in some other states continue to make their way through the courts. Since last year, the vast majority of federal rulings have declared same-sex marriages bans unconstitutional. The Wisconsin and Indiana cases shifted to Chicago after attorneys general in the states appealed separate lower court rulings in June that tossed the bans. The 7th Circuit stayed those rulings pending its own decision on the cases, which were considered simultaneously.

Between the bans being struck down and the order reinstating them as the appeals process ran its course, hundreds of gay couple in both states rushed to marry. Those marriages could have been jeopardized had the 7th Circuit restored

By standards of the 7th circuit, the decision was unusually fast — coming just nine days after oral arguments — suggesting unanimity came easily to the panel.

Judge Richard Posner, an appointee of Republican President Ronald Reagan in 1981, wrote Thursday's opinion for the panel. During oral arguments, it was Posner who fired the toughest questions at defenders of the bans, often expressing exasperation at their answers.

The ruling echoes his comments during oral arguments that "hate" underpinned the gay-marriage bans, saying, "Homosexuals are among the most stigmatized misunderstood, and discriminatedagainst minorities in the history of the world."

The states argued that the prohibitions helped foster a centuries-old tradition of marriage between men and women, and that the regulation of the institution of marriage was a tool for society to attempt to prevent pregnancies out of wedlock.

Thursday's opinion went back to that issue repeatedly, noting that some traditions, such as shaking hands or men wearing ties, may "seem silly" but "are at least harmless."

That, though, is not the case when it comes to gay-marriage bans, the court said.

"If no social benefit is conferred by a tradition and it is written into law and it discriminates against a number of people and does them harm beyond just offending them, it is not just a harmless anachronism; it is a violation of the equal protection clause," the opinion says.

Applications for US jobless aid at still-low 302K

JOSH BOAK AP Economics Writer WASHINGTON (AP)

Slightly more Americans sought unemployment benefits last week, but the total number receiving aid remained at its lowest level in more than seven years.

Applications for unemployment aid rose 4,000 to a seasonally adjusted 302,000, the Labor Department said Thursday. The four-week average, a less volatile measure, increased 3,000 to a still-low 302,750.

A steady decline in applications over the summer means that 2.46 million people collected benefits last week, the fewest since June 2007, a few months before the Great Recession began.

Applications for benefits tend to reflect the pace of layoffs. When employers keep their workers, it suggests that they are more confident about economic growth and possibly ready to increase hiring.

"The current pace of jobless claims is consistent with monthly job growth of more than 200,000," said Gus Faucher, a senior economist at PNC Financial Services.

The job market has improved as the number of applications for unemployment benefits has dropped.

On Friday, the Labor Department will release the August employment report, and employers are expected to have added 220,000 jobs, according to FactSet.

Economists have forecast that the unemployment rate dipped to 6.1 percent from 6.2 percent.







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US Financial Front:

American services firms expand at fastest pace on record

PAUL WISEMAN AP Economics Writer WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. services firms expanded in August at the fastest pace on record.

The Institute for Supply Management said Thursday that its services index rose to 59.6 last month from 58.7 in July.

The August figure is the highest recorded since the measure was introduced in January 2008. Fifteen industries reported growth last month. Only mining and arts, entertainment and recreation contracted in August.

Hiring grew at services firms for a sixth straight month. Their export orders grew for a fifth straight month but at a slower pace than in July. Jennifer Lee, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets, said the report

growth remains healthy in quarter after registering a pace from April through

suggests that economic the current July-September robust 4.2 percent annual

"The encouraging U.S. economic news continues to roll in, pointing to continued job creation and, at some point, higher wages and then, stronger consumer spending," Lee wrote in a research note.

The ISM is a trade group of purchasina managers. Its services survey covers businesses that employ 90 percent of the American workforce, including retail, construction, health care and financial services firms.

On Friday, the Labor Department will report on hiring and unemployment in August.

Economists forecast that the economy generated 220,000 jobs. That would be the seventh straight month that job gains exceeded have 200,000, the longest such streak since 1997.



Kitchen leader Randall Benton, left, and pizza maker Freddie Ortiz prepare dough for pizzas at Mellow Mushroom during their Way Back Wednesday Celebration marking 40 years in business, in Burlington, N.C. The Institute for Supply Management, a trade group of purchasing managers, issued its index of non-manufacturing activity for August on Thursday, Sept. 4, 2014.

(AP Photo/Burlington Times-News, Sam Roberts)

US trade gap narrows to lowest level since January

JOSH BOAK AP Economics Writer WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. trade deficit fell in July to its lowest level since January, as exports of autos, telecom equipment, industrial machines and semiconductors rose.

The trade deficit fell 0.6 percent in July to a seasonally adjusted \$40.5 billion, from \$40.8 billion in June, the Commerce Department said Thursday.

to a record \$198 billion. Imports also rose, climbing 0.7 percent to \$238.6 bil- Ashworth projects that the lion, as shipments of food, beverages and autos from pand at an annualized clip abroad increased.

Imports of oil products in- third quarter. creased, but rising domestic production reduced the trade deficit in petroleum

to its lowest in more than five years.

The combination of rising imports and exports suggest increased spending by consumers and businesses, which generally points to the possibility of solid economic growth in the second half of 2014.

"The decline in the trade deficit is encouraging and echoes what the activity surveys are telling us, namely that economic growth Exports climbed 0.9 percent remains strong," said Paul Ashworth, chief U.S. economist at Capital Economics. economy is on track to ex-

> Trade deficits subtract from gross domestic product, so Exports rose in June to

help boost growth. The trade deficit's drag on the economy lessened in the April-June quarter, after having hurt GDP in the first three months of the year.

Exports fell 9.2 percent in the first quarter, likely because of slower growth in Europe and China. At the same time, imports rose and the resulting gap contributed to the economy shrinking at an annualized rate of 2.1 percent in the first three months.

Overall, the trade deficit lowered growth by 1.6 percentage points in the first quarter. The economy shrank at a 2.1 percent of at least 3 percent in the seasonally adjusted annual rate, the worst showing since the recession.

a narrowing deficit should \$195.9 billion, the previous

record high. Imports shrank 1.2 percent that month to \$237.4 billion.

The lower trade deficit figures helped reduce the drag on economic growth in the second quarter, as the economy improved at an annualized clip of 4.2

Still, the trade deficit has widened in the first seven months of this year to \$295.3 billion, up from \$282.2 billion during the same period in 2013. Imports have risen

faster than exports.

In 2013, the trade deficit declined by 11.4 percent. That reflected in part a boom in U.S. energy production that cut into America's dependence on foreign oil, while boosting U.S. petroleum exports to a record high.

The nation's trade balance in oil has continued to improve this year. The U.S. had a petroleum trade deficit of \$119.8 billion in the first seven months of this year, down from \$144.7 billion last year.





Legal or not, the American pot business is still wacky

JONATHAN FAHEY AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Legal or not, the business of selling weed in the U.S. is as wacky as ever.

The tangle of rules and regulations that govern whether and how it can be grown, bought and sold cause major headaches for marijuana businesses — and enticing opportunities for those who want to exploit it.

At the heart of the complexity lies a basic disagreement.

The federal government views marijuana as an illegal narcotic like heroin, with "no currently accepted medical use." But 23 states and Washington, D.C., have legalized pot for medical purposes. In Colorado and Washington State, it can be bought for recreational use, just like alcohol and tobacco.

Laws differ from state to state and sometimes from county to county. A bumper crop of consultants and shady public companies have bloomed, promising to show entrepreneurs and investors how to navigate and fat profits. Consumers have an array of high-quality, pot-related products to choose from — but they must also discern truth from hope in the many claims about the supposedly won-

the twisted way to success derful things pot can do.

ENTREPRENEURS

"It's a gray market industry, that's just how it is," says Kayvan Khalatbari, who owns both a marijuana dispensary and a chain of pizza restaurants in Denver. Still, three successive banks dropped him after learning the management company had ties to pot.

Once open, a business can flourish. Would-be competitors face the same hurdles to getting started,

promising to connect investors with entrepreneurs. Others sell help navigating the licensing process, tips on how best to grow marijuana, or advice about how to manage a startup that must operate outside of the banking system.

Bierman had no experience in the business when he started six years ago. Now his firm knows its stuff, he says, but the industry is crawling with people who don't.

INVESTORS

Pot investing is treacherous even for professionals.

"It takes a lot of time and energy to sort through the hyperbole and find the right, legitimate opportunities," says Brendan Kennedy, a former Silicon Valley banker who helped found Privateer Holdings, a marijuana-focused private equity firm.

Kennedy says few companies have worked out a long-term business plan that coldly assesses the market and the risks — and growing plants for profit isn't quite so simple.

"Ultimately it's a crop, it's a commodity, not very different from a lot of agricultural products that are out there," Kennedy says. "Would you invest in a winery? Or a strawberry grow-

Investing in pot stocks is even scarier. Most are so-called penny stocks that trade outside of major exchanges. There are now a couple dozen of these companies, often with names that play on marijuana's scientific name, cannabis sativa, such as Advanced Cannabis Solutions or Cannabusiness Group.

But many have tenuous ties to the marijuana industry, regulators say.

Canadian regulators issued a warning about marijuana-related stocks in June, following similar alerts from the U.S. Financial Industry Regulatory Authority last year and one from the SEC in May. Five times this year the SEC has suspended trading in shares of companies claiming to be in the marijuana business.



Marijuana store co-owner Kayvan Khalatbari, center, photographs a product label inside the front office of the marijuana shop Denver Relief, in Denver. Khalatbari also runs Denver Relief Consulting, which assists current and would-be marijuana-related businesses around the country, as well as owning a chain of pizza restaurants in Denver.

(AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)



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Khalatbari started his first pizza restaurant with a bank loan. Raising money for a new marijuana-growing facility hasn't been so easy.

Federally-regulated banks are afraid to serve a business the U.S. government considers illegal. Residency restrictions in Colorado prevent raising money from out-of-state investors in exchange for a share of a company — exactly what most investors want.

So, to build his 40,000 square-foot growing facility, Khalatbari teamed with an out-of-state investor who is lending money for construction while trying to establish residency in Colorado. When that comes through, the investor will get an ownership stake.

get an ownership stake.
Once up and running, entrepreneurs face more twists. Khalatbari kept his bank account in the name of a management company, and he was careful not to pay pot-related vendors out of the account.

so months, if not years, can pass before they challenge the established business.

Khalatbari's marijuana business boasts a profit margin 60 percent higher than his pizza restaurants. Even after the legal headaches, it's easier to make a profit selling the bud of a plant for \$200 an ounce than it is selling a meat lover's pizza (pepperoni, spicy sausage, Canadian bacon and mozzarella) for \$19.99. "It's much higher-risk," he says of the marijuana business. "But the reward is much greater."

CONSULTANTS

"Everyone wants to be in the weed business," says Adam Bierman, managing partner at a marijuana consulting company based in Culver City, California, called the Med Men.

Bierman is one of dozens if not hundreds of consultants feeding off the complexity of the marijuana businessand the desire of so many to make it big in pot. Some act as matchmakers,

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ORALIE LEWIS GODIN

August 24th, 2014 Prize Won: \$1.000



WILLEM MARCELLO SEFERINO

August 24th, 2014 Prize Won: \$5.859



FABIO DI FAUSTO

August 29th, 2014 Prize Won: \$3.620



EDWIN GIEL

August 31st, 2014 Prize Won:

\$3.000







President of European Central Bank Mario Draghi smiles prior to a news conference in Frankfurt, Germany, Thursday, Sept. 4, 2014, following a meeting of the ECB governing council. The European Central Bank has cut its interest rates and announced a new stimulus program that involves buying financial assets, a bid to salvage a weak economic recovery.

(AP Photo/Michael Probst)

ECB surprises with rate cuts, new stimulus plan

DAVID McHUGH AP Business Writer FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)

— The European economy needs help. Most people didn't expect it would arrive quite this quickly.

The European Central Bank cut interest rates Thursday and announced a program to pump money into the economy and stimulate lending by buying bundles of bank loans.

The majority of analysts didn't think the ECB would move this soon. The reason for the stepped-up action: the eurozone's top monetary authority is worried. The 18 countries that use the euro showed no economic growth in the second quarter after four quarters of meager expansion. Inflation is only 0.3 percent annually, well below the ECB's goal of just under 2 percent and another sign

of economic weakness. credit. Draghi said the are slipping.

Here's a look at what the bank did and how much it might help. The ECB nudged its benchmark interest rate about as close to zero as it can get, from a record low 0.15 percent to 0.05 percent. This rate determines what banks pay when they borrow from the on mortgages — confused ECB. Usually, this is the Big Kahuna: the rate that determines the cost of shortterm credit all across the economy.But the economy is so slack that there's not a lot of lending going on.

And rate cuts have less effect as rates get near zero. So this is mostly symbolic, and a statement of resolve to do what's necessary.

The ECB went beyond the benchmark rate and turned to an unconventional step to push for more

And inflation expectations ECB is ready to buy assetbacked securities, or ABS bonds based on bank loans such as mortgage loans, car loans and credit to businesses.

Most people outside the financial industry first heard about asset-backed securities when one variety complex bonds based investors and ravaged the banking system in 2007-2008. Yet it's precisely this kind of bond — the simpler, less risky ones — that the ECB wants to see more of. By buying these assets, the ECB gives banks incentives to make the loans from which they're constructed. That's key in Europe, because most companies get the credit they need to operate from banks, not by issuing bonds as they do in the U.S.

Al-Qaida announces a new Indian subcontinent branch

ELLEN BARRY © 2014 New York Times

NEW DELHI - Al-Qaida has released a video announcing the establishment of a new branch on the Indian subcontinent, saying it is meant to revive jihadist activity in a region that was once "part of the land of Muslims, until the infidel enemy occupied it and fragmented it and split it."

In the 55-minute video, which was posted on jihadist forums, al-Qaida's leader, Ayman al-Zawahri, addresses listeners in parts of the region with large Muslim populations, assuring Muslims in Burma and Bangladesh; in the Indian cities and states of Assam, Gujarat, Ahmedabad and Kashmir that your brothers" in the militant organization "did not forget you and that they are doing what they can to rescue you."

In recent months, al-Qaida's emerging competitor, the Islamic State group, has begun to recruit Indian Muslims, and some analysts viewed the videotaped announcement as a response. The new entity, Qaedat al-Jihad in the Indian Subcontinent, represents the network's fifth official branch and its first in Asia, adding to branches based in the Sahara region of Africa, in East Africa, in Yemen and in Syria.

Al-Zawahri said it had taken more than two years "to gather the mujahedeen in the Indian subcontinent into a single entity," but did not mention smaller groups that might be affiliated. The SITE Intelligence Group, which monitors extremist activity online, said the video was posted Wednesday.

Indian news outlets reported Thursday that the country's Intelligence Bureau had verified the video's authenticity and had alerted police across the nation to a heightened threat.

Sambit Patra, a spokesman for the governing Bharatiya Janata Party, called the announcement "a matter of serious concern."

"The government will take a note of it, and surely see to it that whatever action we have to take against this will be done," he said, according to ANI, a wire

Al-Qaida, which has been weakened by military and economic pressure in the years since the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, has not traditionally recruited heavily in India or staged major attacks on Hindus. Instead, its ideological focus has been on driving out a "far enemy" - the United States and its allies - from the Middle East. Analysts say its leaders may be wary of provoking conflict with the Indian region's huge Hindu popula-

However, the Islamic State group, a Sunni network that split rancorously from al-Qaida last year, has been recruiting Indian Muslims this summer.

In his videotaped address, al-Zawahri does not make specific reference to the Islamic State group, but he does call for unity among jihadists, saying "Discord is a curse and torment, and disgrace for the believers and glory for the disbelievers."



Dalai Lama again refused South Africa visa, no trip

CARLEY PETESCH Associated Press JOHANNESBURG (AP) —

The Dalai Lama has again been refused entry into South Africa where he was going to attend the 14th World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates, his South African representative said. Concern about angering China has been cited for a visa refusal in the past.

Nangsa Choedon, the representative, said officials from the Department of International Relations and Cooperation called her to say the Tibetan spiritual leader's visa was denied, the Cape Times newspaper reported Thursday.

"For now the Dalai Lama has decided to cancel his trip to South Africa," Choedon was quoted as saying. South Africa's international relations department said later Thursday it had received written confirma-

tion from the office of His Mandela. Holiness The Dalai Lama The Nelson Mandela Founin India indicating he has cancelled his planned visit to South Africa.

South Africa's High Commission in New Delhi was still processing the visa application "in line with due process," it said. But "following the cancellation of the planned visit by the office of His Holiness, the Department now considers the matter to be closed."

Tashi Phuntsok, the spokesman for the Tibetan government-in-exile, said "if the news reports are correct, it is unfortunate that the South African government did not extend the same courtesy to the respected religious leader, the Dalai Lama, as it did to the other Nobel laureates."

The annual summit is being held in Cape Town next month and is meant to commemorate the life of

dation on Thursday said it took note of South Africa's statement about processing the visa.

"We look forward to be-

ing in attendance at the 14th World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates in Cape Town together with His Holiness and other laureates," the foundation said.

Other Nobel Laureates



An exile Tibetan Buddhist monk walks past a roadside stall selling portraits of his spiritual leader the Dalai Lama in Dharmsala, India, Thursday, Sept. 4, 2014. The Dalai Lama has again been refused entry into South Africa where he was going to attend the 14th World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates, his South African representative said. Concern about angering China has been cited for a visa refusal in the past.

(AP Photo/Ashwini Bhatia)

have told Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu that the will not attend if the Dalai Lama is not permitted into the country, the newspaper reported.

Asked about that, Tashi said: "Other Nobel laureates have always been supportive of the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan cause, and we are grateful."

This is the third time in five years the Dalai Lama has been refused a South African visa.

A South African court in 2012 ruled that officials "unreasonably delayed" a decision about whether to grant the Dalai Lama a visa for a 2011 trip, largely out of fears of angering the Chinese government.

The Dalai Lama wants increased autonomy for Tibet, the homeland from which he has been exiled since 1959. China accuses him of being a separatist.

Bus swept away by stream in Kashmir; 50 missing

AIJAZ HUSSAIN Associated Press SRINAGAR, India (AP) — A

bus carrying more than 50 wedding guests was swept away by a flooded stream Thursday in the Indian-held portion of Kashmir, and all but five of the passengers were missing, officials said. Police officer Mubashir Latiefi said rescuers found one body nearly three kilometers (two miles) downstream.

Latiefi also said four swam to safety and told rescuers that about 50 others were travelling by the bus.

Rescuers sighted the bus several hours later and were trying to reach it, he said. Landslides and heavy rains earlier blocked access to the area.

Officials earlier said the bus was carrying about 70 people. "There is a lot of confusion," Rajesh Kumar, another police officer, said. The Press Trust of India news agency said the bride and bridearoom were amona the missing people who were returning home from a wedding ceremony in a village in the Rajouri region, about 180 kilometers (110 miles) southwest of Srinagar, the main city in the Indian-held portion of Kashmir. The region's wedding season has been disrupted by heavy rains and the worst floods in 22 years,

and many ceremonies have been postponed. At least 18 people have died in the past two days,

and authorities on Thursday closed schools and stopped train services in the Kashmir valley.







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Brazil's maternal milk banks model for globe

JENNY BARCHFIELD Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Thirty years ago, poor Brazilian women were paid for their breast milk, leaving their children at risk of malnourishment. Equipment at the few milk collection centers was so costly it limited the country's ability to expand the program's reach.

That has changed dramatically, thanks in part to Joao Arigio Guerrade Almeida, a chemist who has turned the Brazilian Milk Bank Network into a model studied by other countries and credited with helpina slash infant mortality by two thirds. "Brazil is really the world leader in milk bank development," said Dr. Lisa Hammer, a University of Michigan pediatrician who was part of a team visiting the Rio de Janeiro-based network last week.

Relatively unusual in much of the world, donating breast milk is common in Brazil, where the network of banks works in much the same way as blood banks testing, sorting and storing milk used mostly to feed premature infants in neonatal units.

When a mother is unable to breast feed her baby, due to illness, drug addiction or other problems, the network steps in to offer free milk. Last year, it collected milk from some 150,000 women to nourish about 155,000 babies.

Reaching such success was not easy. Almeida recalled the trouble he saw on his in 1985, at the tail end of ity of a developing counthe country's two-decadelong military dictatorship.

"What I saw frightened me," he said. The system relied on "donations" from destitute mothers who often sold so much breast milk they were left without fants.

Almeida lobbied for a ban on the sale of breast milk and sought alternatives to expensive imported equipment. High-end pasteurizing machines that cost \$25,000 were swapped for \$1,500 Brazilian-made ma-

with the Health Ministry estimating more than half of mothers now breast feed exclusively for their children's first six months of life. In the United States, that rate is 16.4 percent, according to the Centers for Disease Control, even

enough for their own in- ingly are choosing to nurse, water when they prepare formula for feedings.

> "For a small investment, we're getting a huge return," said Almeida. "We get better survival rates and overall health for babies that end up saving the health system money, and we get to reach out



A lab technician shows containers of frozen human milk at the Fernandes Figueira Institute in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. A group of American doctors are in Brazil to learn how the country's extensive milk bank system works. With more than 200 such banks nationwide, where breast-feeding women can donate milk that is then pasteurized and used in neo-natal facilities, Brazil has cut down dramatically in infant mortality. Doctors in the U.S. are looking to duplicate Brazil's success. (AP Photo/Silvia Izquierdo)

chines used in food-testing laboratories. Jars made for mayonnaise or instant coffee were sterilized to store milk for freezing, replacing imported beaker tubes that had accounted for a whopping 89 percent of operating costs at Brazilian milk banks.

try without compromising the quality and safety of the milk," said Almeida, 57. "We also shifted the focus from the child to the mother, making her into the protagonist."

Brazilian women increas-

though breast feeding is not only to mothers of prewidely seen as the best source of nutrition for infants.

Breast milk contains antimicrobial and anti-inflammatory substances that help prevent ailments such as diarrhea, which can be fatal to infants, and to promote "We found ways of adapt- long-term health in ways first visit to a Rio milk bank ing the system to the real- that dairy-based formulas do not. Premature babies given breast milk often avoid danaerous bowel conditions and other illnesses, allowing them to leave neo-natal units sooner.

> Use of breast milk also allows mothers to avoid using potentially contaminated

mature babies, but all new mothers and teach them about breastfeedina."

Public awareness campaigns feature the stars of prime-time soap operas urging new mothers to aive milk. Toll-free hotlines and house calls by trained technicians teach wouldbe donors how to pump their breast milk, sterilize glass jars and keep the milk in home freezers. Home pick-up — by motorcycle messengers in some cities, firefighters, or even police officers in others — made donating easier and more widespread.

Guatemala: Bishop's killer ran an alleged empire in jail

SONIA PEREZ Associated Press GUATEMALA CITY (AP)

 A Guatemalan army captain sentenced to 20 years for the slaying of a Roman Catholic bishop was charged with money laundering and organized crime for allegedly building a multimillion-dollar illicit prison empire based on threats and corruption. Prosecutors said this week that Byron Lima Oliva took money from other inmates in return for favors such as prohibited cellphones and appliances, as well as special food and conjugal vis-

"Lima represents for many of the inmates the true authority, and so they turn to him to seek transfers, favors and rights. Lima Oliva exerts undoubtable influence in the penitentiary system," Ivan Velasquez, head of the U.N. International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala told reporters. The U.N.-backed team of police and prosecutors targets crime and corruption in Guatemala.

Reached by phone, Lima denied the allegations and said he is the target of a vendetta by government officials because he prevented extortion and other crimes in the prison.

"They are looking for revenge because I did not let them put an inmate in this place ... whom they wanted to assassinate," Lima told The Associated Press. Velasquez, Attorney General Thelma Aldana and Interior Secretary Mauricio Lopez Bonilla announced the investigation, which began last year and identified Lima as the lynchpin of a criminal organization that has been in place for at least 15 years.



Local Musician Travels to US for Book Release and Band Reunion



ORANJESTAD - Richard Verge, an American born entertainer living in Aruba who entertains under the moniker "Ricky Thomas" will be travelling to the state of New Jersey, United States this fall for the release of a new book.

Bandazian who was a former co-owner of the Circus Circus Rock Club. The book, titled "Rock and Roll Meltdown; The Circus Nightclub Story" tells the story of the Circus Circus Rock Club in the years 1979-1983; when Mr. Verge performed there as a member of the musical group the Badlands Band. The Badlands Band performed at the popular Bergenfield, New Jersey's nightclub's opening night and then went on to become the club's top drawing acts.

The Badlands Band would consistently draw 800-1000 fans every Tuesday night at the Circus Circus Rock Club. The Badlands Band and their exploits are featured prominently in the book.

The Badlands Band will be

reuniting to play together for the first time in 32 years at the book release party! Mr. Verge was the lead guitarist in the popular band.

be travelling to the state of New Jersey, United States this fall for the release of a new book.

The book is written by Rick Bandazian who was a former co-owner of the Circus Circus Rock Club. The book,

The Badlands Band played Country and Southern Rock. The band was based in New Jersey and performed throughout the tri state area of New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania in the 1980's.

The band developed a large and loyal fan base in the area.

Because of the popularity of the Badlands Band two shows in different locations have been scheduled. As the Circus Circus Rock Club no longer exists one show is scheduled Friday October 16 at "Tommy Fox's", a venue in Bergenfield, New Jersey not far from the original club. On Saturday October 18 the Band will perform at "Jenkinson's on the Boardwalk", located in Point Pleasant, New Jersey. Several thousand people are anticipated to attend the events.

Adding to the excitement of Mr. Verge's reunion with his band mates is the fact that Mr. Verge's picture while performing with the Badlands Band was featured prominently in a video released by Mysterious-Developments.com.

Mysterious Developments. com released a video illustrating how Calgary Canada photographer Azriel Knight came across two rolls of undeveloped Kodak film, and reconnected the photos with the people discovered in the images. The video generated a considerable amount of interest on the internet.

The images on the film were of the Badlands Band. Featured prominently in the photos of the band was Mr. Verge. It was Mr. Verge's image that was discovered by a Badlands fan and led to the reconnection with

the photographs.

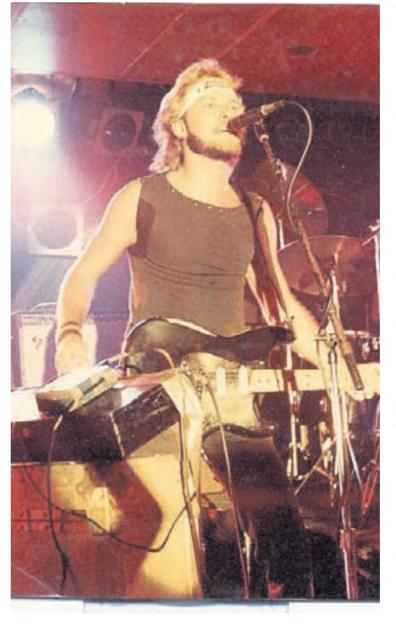
Richard Verge, performing under the name Ricky Thomas, is an American born vocalist / guitarist / entertainer who has been performing on the Antilles since 2006.

Ricky combines his bluesy Caribbean style with the popular hits of Rock and Roll, Soul, Latin, Motown, International, Reggae and Country. Ricky moved to the Happy Island of Aruba from Bonaire in February 2013 and has since made Aruba his beloved home, performing and living here with his beautiful Aruban bride Marlene whom he met while living on Bonaire. While living on Bonaire, Ricky formed the popular band the "Flamingo Rockers."

The Flamingo rockers were the house band at the Balashi Bar located at the Divi Flamingo Hotel. In 2007 the Flamingo Rockers opened for and performed with the famous recording artist George "Rock Your Baby" MacCrae when he appeared on Bonaire. In 2010 Ricky started performing as a One Man Show. Ricky has entertained at nearly every major venue on Bonaire as a One Man Show.

As mentioned above, Ricky met his wife Marlene while living on Bonaire. During their first visit to Aruba together to visit Marlene's family Ricky took one look around and told Marlene "After we get married, we're moving to Aruba!" A week after the couple married they took their honeymoon to Aruba and have no plans to leave!

Ricky has a busy schedule and entertains 5 – 6 nights per week at several upscale properties; the Costa Linda Beach Resort, the Divi Phoenix and the Renaissance Ocean Suites.









Lunch & Dinner

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Loyal Visitors Honored at the Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino

PALM BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a group of loyal and friendly Visitors of Aruba, at the Marriott Ocean Club, as Distinguished Visitors and Ambassadors of Goodwill. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 and 20-or-more consecutive vears.

The honorees were Mr. Chuck and Mrs. Janie Kilburn from Sissonville, West Virginia, and Mr. Hallak Farah and Mrs. Leticia Levy from Argentina. The honor-



ees are loyal guests of the Marriott Resort and Stellaris Casino and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the weather, the beaches, the restaurants and the multi-lingual experience. The honorees say Aruba feels like a second home, and the employees at the Marriott are like a family to them and the Resort is their home away from home. The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with staff members and management of the Marriott Resort and Stellaris Casino.







Warm Welcome back to Mark and Marian at Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill!

PALM BEACH - Welcome back Bugaloe Guests of the Week: Mark and Marian O'Neill! These two lovely people aren't just visitors on the island, they are a part of the island after visiting 4 times a year for 14 years straight! The memories they have made last a lifetime! The O'Neill's are from Wallingford, Pennsylvania and choose to stay at the prestigious Tierra Del Sol during their visits. Falling in love with the island is simply an understatement. 14 years ago Mark and Marian touched their toes in the white sandy beach, and knew this was paradise. The people and the weather is the perfect combination for a relaxed stay.

During their very first visit, Bugaloe also opened their doors for the very first time! Is this a coincidence, we guess not, because Mark and Marian were right there! In 14 years' time nothing has changed they



derful as 14 years ago'!

say: 'Coming to Bugaloe and Marian who like to usually pretty good to go! each and every year, the spend their days going to Over all the years, and staff, the food, the music the beach and listening to the many more years to and sunsets are still as fun, one of Bugaloe's live bands come, one memory aldelicious, great and won- playing 6 night a week. ready comes to mind. Amstel Bright in hand, and Marian: "When I turned Enjoying Aruba isn't con- a delicious Grouper Sandsidered to be very difficult, wich or Steak Platter in the me a birthday cake while especially not for Mark other, Mark and Marian are everyone, including the

50, Marc 'the chef' made

Bugaloe Crew sang Happy Birthday to me! My best Birthday so far!

The Bugaloe Crew would like to thank Mark and Marian for being such loyal Bugaloe guests, always bringing their love and fun to the Bugaloe Bar.











Greg Asadoorian Performing at The Sopranos Piano Bar!

PALM BEACH - Piano bar enter- vocals, Greg is a true one-man Piano Bar at Arawak Gardens, J.E. show. Irausquin 368.

A professional piano bar entertainer for 10 years, Greg Asadoorian delivers an energetic rock 'n' roll show that gets the audience into the act. With accents of harmonica and percussion to his dexterous piano playing and versatile

tainer Greg Asadoorian is per- band. In addition to a repertoire forming in Aruba through the end of crowd favorites, he also offers of September at The Sopranos an R-rated, adults-only late night

> Greg has enjoyed playing all over his native New England and was ranked among the highest rated piano bar entertainers during a five-year stint with Carnival Cruise

> He performs Sunday through Friday from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.



SPURIS RODAY



Stephen Curry of the U.S. shoots to the basket during the Group C Basketball World Cup match against Ukraine, in Bilbao, northern Spain, Thursday, Sept. 4, 2014. Associated Press

U.S. tops Ukraine to finish basketball worlds group

BRIAN MAHONEY
AP Basketball Writer
BILBAO, Spain (AP) — The
bags were already packed
and the Americans had already checked out of their
rooms.

The only thing standing between them and Barcelona was a game against Ukraine, and it took them a little while to get into it.

The U.S. national team eventually pulled away to win it and finish pool play unbeaten, getting 17 points from James Harden and 14 from Stephen Curry in a 95-71 victory Thursday at the Basketball World

Once that was over, the Americans could truly turn their attention where they wanted it. "We're looking forward to getting to Barcelona and starting the next part of the journey, the medal rounds, and taking things seriously," Curry said. Anthony Davis finished with 12 points for the Americans, who will face Mexico on Saturday night in the round of 16.

Continued on Page 19



Justin Rose, of England, lines up a putt on the 9th hole during the first round of the BMW Championship golf tournament at Cherry Hills Country Club in Cherry Hills Village, Colo., Thursday, Sept. 4, 2014.

Associated Press



Marin Cilic, of Croatia, reacts after winning the first set against Tomas Berdych, of the Czech Republic, during the quarterfinals of the 2014 U.S. Open tennis tournament, Thursday, Sept. 4, 2014 in New York **Associated Press**

Year after doping ban, Cilic reaches U.S. Open semis

HOWARD FENDRICH AP Tennis Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Marin Cilic wasn't allowed to play last year in the U.S. Open, forced to the sideline by a four-month doping suspension that he says he didn't deserve. Home in Croatia, he set about improving his game and his fitness, eager to be a better player when he returned to the tennis tour. Now, he figures, that time off from competition is paying off on the court. The 14th-seeded Cilic reached the second Grand Slam semifinal of his career, and first since 2010, by beating sixthseeded Tomas Berdych of

the Czech Republic 6-2, 6-4, 7-6 (4) Thursday at Flushing Meadows.

"I mean, it was a difficult period. I didn't know when I'm going to start back. But (it) was also (a) good period for me," Cilic said, thinking back to 12 months ago. "I matured a bit more and I was working, day after day. I wasn't relaxing and doing nothing. So I think that helped me to improve physically. Also, it helped me to have enough time to put some new parts in my game, which are helping me to play this good now."

Cilic, a former top-10 player, tested positive for a stimulant after a match in Germany in May 2013, and the International Tennis Federation sought a two-year ban. He said he ingested the substance unintentionally via a glucose tablet bought at a pharmacy.

He initially was suspended for nine months, but the Court of Arbitration for Sport reduced that to four months on appeal last October, saying, "the sanction imposed was too severe." The court also restored ranking points and prize money that had been taken from Cilic.

"It angered me how all the process went, because it was not fair to me. It wouldn't be fair to any tennis player," Cilic said Thursday. "So that was just very bad memories. But, you know, when you're against big organizations, you are (a) small hand. You can't do much. So I just accepted it. ... I erased it from my memory."

No matter the opponent Saturday, Cilic thinks he's playing better than ever. Sure looked that way against Berdych, the 2010 Wimbledon runner-up.

Both men are gifted servers, but that stroke failed Berdych on a wind-swept afternoon. Broken a total of four times through his first four matches, he lost four of his first five service

games against Cilic, the first man from Croatia in the U.S. Open semifinals since his coach, Goran Ivanisevic, in 1996.

"Really, my serve was off," Berdych lamented. "Horrible from the beginning." Through those initial five service games, he hit five double-faults and won only 8 of 25 points.

"Was very tricky with the conditions. Very gusty," Cilic said. "Not easy to deal with the wind and with ... the ball moving in the air. I felt that I was using the wind a bit better today."

Berdych seemed to making things a little more interesting in the third set, going up a break. But serving at 4-2, 30-15, he wound up in a protracted argument with chair umpire Louise Azemar Engzell over whether a ball had bounced twice before a lunging Berdych was able to put his racket on it.

"Have you ever had a racket in your hand?" he asked her. "This is a horrible call. This is (an) absolutely horrible call. There is absolutely no explanation."

That's not the sort of ruling that's subject to replay review in tennis, although a slow-motion shot showed that ball did, in fact, bounce a fraction of a second before Berdych got to it. He lost the next two points, too, to get broken, and Cilic was back in control.

And, of course, he's thrilled to be back on the circuit — and back in the latter stages of a major tournament.

He still harbors disappointment over the way his drug case was handled and says he never got a full explanation

But Cilic also feels as though he's embarked on a second career, in a

"I felt that sort of my game just transformed," he said of his time away, "and I was able to, when I came back, start from zero."



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Basketball Worlds

Continued from Page 17

The Mexicans finished fourth in Group D.

It was closer than the usual U.S. game, but the Americans were never in any danger of losing in the second half after seizing control just before half-time against a methodical Ukraine team coached by former NBA coach Mike Fratello.

The only scare was a hard landing by starting guard Kyrie Irving with 1:12 left, but he eventually got up and walked off holding his lower back. Coach Mike Krzyzewski said the Cleveland Cavaliers All-Star was expected to be all right.

The Americans left later Thursday for the next round, held in the city where the famed U.S. Dream Team won gold in the 1992 Olympics.

International fans and journalists still refer to a U.S. squad as the Dream

Team, though this one doesn't rise to that level. But despite some significant player losses that left them with the youngest team they have sent to an international competition since pros could be used, the Americans have shown an occasional ability to dominate like some of their more potent predecessors. They still managed to finish close to their tournamentbest average of 104 points despite not making a field goal for nearly the first 5 minutes of the game.

Krzyzewski thought the poor start offensively may have been caused by the hectic schedule the Americans had before the game, and the fact they had already clinched Group C a day earlier. Harden thought it was a result of the U.S. playing the second game of the day session, leaving less time than usual to get loose.

"We didn't really have a

chance to warm up. It was kind of like AAU basketball, so we kind of had to hurry up and get out there and get ready," Harden said. "So first quarter we were kind of sluggish, second quarter we picked it up and second half we played pretty well."

The Ukrainians were eliminated from contention after finishing 2-3. Fratello said they were told they fell short by one point in point differential and lost tiebreakers.

Fratello is a longtime TV analyst who returned to the sideline in 2011 to work for Ukrainian federation president Alexander "Sasha" Volkov, one of his former players with the Atlanta Hawks.

His team made the Americans work for nearly a half, then ended up getting blown out like everyone else.

"I was very proud of our performance," Fratello said. "We hung in there for about three quarters, kept it between 12 and 15, 12



and 15, but we turned the ball over every time we chipped away."

The U.S. had another poor start, just as it did in previous victories over Turkey and the Dominican Republic.

There were hundreds of empty seats behind the basket that had been filled for the first game by Finland fans whose team lost. They didn't miss much early from the Americans, who took nearly half of the opening period to make their first field goal and trailed for much of the first half.

Ukraine led 19-14 after one

and was still ahead 27-25 midway through the second before the Americans finally put a spurt together. Curry nailed a pair of 3-pointers as the U.S. outscored Ukraine 19-5 over the final 4:43 to take a 44-32 into halftime.

It grew to 69-54 after three, and a couple quick baskets at the beginning of the period got the Americans off and running toward an easy final quarter, though there were some concerned faces when Irving lost his balance after leaping and landed with an easily heard thud.





McIlroy shares lead at BMW Championship

DOUG FERGUSON AP Golf Writer CHERRY HILLS VILLAGE, Colorado (AP) — Rory McIlroy ran out of par saves late in the opening round at the BMW Championship and had to settle for a 3-under 67 on Thursday, good enough to share the lead with Jordan Spieth and Gary Woodland.

Cherry Hills, one of the shortest courses on the PGA Tour when factoring in the milehigh air, held up just fine.

"It's tricky. It really is," topranked McIlroy said. "The altitude, we've had a couple of days to adjust to that. It's fine. But these greens have gotten so much firmer over the last 24 hours. I think that's what is giving the guys just a little trouble out there."

U.S. Open champion Martin Kaymer and Sergio Garcia were among those at 68, while Justin Rose wasted a fast start and was at 69. Phil Mickelson, who won the U.S. Amateur at Cherry Hills in 1990, opened with a 70. "It reminds me of Augusta in the early '90s, where the course played very short but the greens were the defense," Mickelson said. "And the greens were very fast, and very firm, and it was very difficult to get the ball close."

McIlroy ran off four birdies in a five-hole stretch around the turn to reach



Steven Bowditch, of Australia, hits out of the sand on the ninth hole during the first round of the BMW Championship golf tournament at Cherry Hills Country Club in Cherry Hills Village, Colo., Thursday, Sept. 4, 2014.

5-under par. He appeared to escape trouble with one of his best par saves of the year, hitting a lofted pitch from the side of a mound that landed just on the green and rode the slope to about 8 feet. He avoided a three-putt on the next hole by making a 7-foot par save.

But that was the end of

McIlroy failed to save par from the bunker on the next two holes.

Spieth also ran into his share of trouble, though he countered with six birdies and figured out the nasty combination of soft turf in front of the greens and putting surfaces that felt like they had been mixed with cement.

He blasted driver through

the fairway on the 382-yard seventh hole because it offered the best angle into the green. The trick was playing the wedge. It came out low and running, something one would expect to see more in links golf, and it had just enough speed to crawl onto the green and

Associated Press

settle a few feet away. "Today, I had a good short game," Spieth said with a

smile, a strong comment from a guy with one of the best short games in golf.

Woodland made only one mistake when he threeputted from about 50 feet on the fourth hole. He birdied both the par 5s, missing an 8-foot eagle attempt on No. 11, and was equally pleased with a par on the 18th hole, which features a severely canted fairway toward the lake and an uphill approach. Woodland hit 2-iron off the tee and a 6-iron onto the green.

"Probably the firmest golf course we have ever seen," Woodland said. "The greens, they're concrete out there. So if we don't get any rain, it can be pretty interesting by the weekend." Just his luck, rain arrived late in the day and suspended the first round with nine players still on the course. They will return Friday morning before starting the second round. The field is only 69 players and there is no cut.

Among those who did not finish was Henrik Stenson, who missed a 4-foot par save on his 17th hole — the par-3 eighth — and fell to 2 under. Jerry Kelly, whose eagle on the final hole at the TPC Boston on Monday enabled him to be the last of the top 70 qualifiers for the BMW Championship, was at 1 under with two holes to play.

New England beats Sporting to close East gap

The Associated Press FOXBOROUGH, Massachussets (AP) — New England's Lee Nguyen scored twice to help the Revolution beat Sporting Kansas City 3-1 to Tuesday, closing the gap between the second and third-placed teams in Major League Soccer's Eastern Conference.

Sporting, which would have closed within a point of East leader D.C. United had it won, took the lead in the ninth minute through a Soony Saad header and held that advantage until iust before halftime when Teal Bunbury equalized for the hosts.

New England went ahead

three minutes after halftime when an unmarked Nguyen controlled a cross at the top of the box and bent a shot past Sporting goalkeeper Andy Gruene-

Nguyen sealed the win, and took his season tally to 12, when he forced a defensive turnover and found the net deep into stoppage time.

United States international Jermaine Jones made his first appearance for the Revolution which moved into clear third in the East standings, six points behind Sporting.

Seattle's Obafemi Martins and Andy Rose each scored two first-half goals as the Sounders got on top early and won 4-2 at struggling Chivas.

Seattle won its third consecutive game to extend its Western Conference lead to five points, while Chivas' winless streak reached eight games and the Los Angeles club remains rooted to the bottom of the West standings.

Martins opened the scoring from Brad Evans' corner in the 11th minute and added a simple goal 5 minutes later.

Seattle made it 3-0 when Rose redirected Evans' free kick in the 38th minute. The duo combined on another



Seattle Sounders midfielder Andy Rose, left, scores past Chivas USA goalkeeper Dan Kennedy during the first period of an MLS soccer match Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2014, in Carson, Calif.

Associated Press

Evans' third assist of the first half.

Marco Delgado ended Chivas' six-game scoreless

free kick 4 minutes later for streak when he headed home in the 51st minute and Ryan Finley converted a penalty in the 60th min-



NL Capsules

LaRoche powers Nationals past Dodgers in 14

ington's Adam LaRoche scored on the play, and Laning and drove in five runs, including a tying homer and a go-ahead grounder in the 14th that sent the Washington Nationals to a wild 8-5 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers on Wednesday.

Asdrubal Cabrera added a two-run shot for the Nationals, who withstood two late rallies in a game that lasted 5 hours, 34 minutes — the longest at Dodger Stadium this season. Washington won two of three in the series, a potential playoff preview between NL division leaders.

All of LaRoche's RBIs either tied the game or gave his team the lead. He delivered a pinch-hit, two-run homer off closer Kenley Jansen that tied it in the ninth and a ao-ahead, two-run single in the 12th. LaRoche then gave the Nationals the lead for good

with a fielder's choice

grounder in the 14th after

an error by shortstop Jus-

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Wash- tin Turner. Ian Desmond made a huge impact off Roche beat the relay to first the bench in the ninth in- to avoid a potential inningending double play.

Blake Treinen (2-3), the 10th Nationals pitcher, finally made the lead stand up in a game that featured three blown saves.

Kevin Correia (2-3) took the

Turner snapped a scoreless tie with a two-run homer in the seventh. Carl Crawford's two-run shot tied it 5-all in the 13th.

CARDINALS 1, PIRATES 0 ST. LOUIS (AP) — Peter Bourjos singled home the winning run in the ninth inning, and St. Louis beat Pittsburgh to stretch its winning streak to five.

Yadier Molina walked with two outs in the ninth on a 3-2 pitch from Mark Melancon (2-4). Molina advanced to second on John Jay's single and scored on the hit by Bourjos, easily beating the throw home from center fielder Andrew McCutchen.

St. Louis moved into sole possession of the NL Cen-



Washington Nationals' Adam LaRoche hits a two-run home run to tie the game during the ninth inning of a baseball game against the Los Angeles Dodgers Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2014, in

Associated Press

tral lead for the first time Monday and extended its margin with a three-game sweep that dropped the Pirates five games back. Pittsburgh has lost 10 of its last 12 road games, dropping B.J. Upton hit a two-run to a major league-worst 17-29 away from home in day

Trevor Rosenthal (2-6)pitched a one-hit ninth. BRAVES 7, PHILLIES 4

games.

ATLANTA (AP) — Rookcatcher Christian Bethancourt had three hits in his return to the major leagues, including a fifthinning single that helped Atlanta break out of its scoring slump in a win over Philadelphia.

homer in a three-run second as the Braves ended a 25-inning scoreless streak.

Bethancourt, recalled from Triple-A Gwinnett on Tuesday following a six-week demotion, drove in the Braves' first run with an infield single and put Atlanta

ahead 5-4 with an RBI single in the fifth.

Ervin Santana (14-7) won despite allowing four runs and seven hits in six innings. Craig Kimbrel closed for his major league-leading 42nd save in 46 chances.

Grady Sizemore hit a tworun homer in the third that tied the score at 3, and Ben Revere had three hits for his fourth straight multihit game.

Mario Hollands (2-2) took the loss. Atlanta was shut out in three of its previous four games.

ROCKIES 9, GIANTS 2

DENVER (AP) — Nolan Arenado hit a go-ahead, three-run homer and Corey Dickerson followed with his second of the game, leading Colorado past San Francisco.

Christian Bergman (2-2) pitched six sharp innings, limiting the Giants to two runs on nine hits and helping the Rockies take the season series 10-9. It is the first time Colorado has won the season series with its NL West rival since going 11-7 against the Giants in 2008.



Seattle Mariners pitcher Felix Hernandez throws against the Oakland Athletics during the first inning of a baseball game in Oakland, Calif., Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2014.

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — four outings.

seventh inning and Se- Hernandez allowed attle beat Oakland to win a three-game series between AL playoff contend-

The home runs negated a stellar start by Jon Lester (13-10) and helped Mariners ace Felix Hernandez (14-5) win for the first time in

Kyle Seager and Corey Adam Dunn homered in Hart homered to start the the fourth for the only run eight innings. He gave up three hits and struck out four to outduel Lester in a matchup of two of the AL's best pitchers. The Mariners tagged Lester for seven hits in eight innings.

> Fernando Rodney pitched a perfect ninth for his 41st

AL Capsules

Seager, Hart homer to rally Mariners past A's, 2-1

save in 44 chances.

The A's have lost seven of

Dunn's drive was his 22nd homer this season and the 462nd of his career, tying him with former A's slugger Jose Canseco for 34th in major league history.

YANKEES 5, RED SOX 1 NEW YORK (AP) — Brian Mc-Cann homered among his career high-tying four hits and the Yankees bounced back to end a three-game losing streak, beating the

McCann homered a day earlier as the Yankees got battered by Boston, leaving them five games behind for the second AL wildcard spot. In the rematch with the last-place Red Sox,

Red Sox.

he drove in three runs and lanos struck out to end the gave an early cushion to Hiroki Kuroda (10-8).

Anthony Ranaudo (3-1) lost for the first time in his four starts since making his big league debut. Boston kept up its weeklong pattern of alternating wins and losses. INDIANS 7, TIGERS 0

CLEVELAND (AP) — Danny Salazar pitched his first career shutout, scattering eight hits, and the Indians beat the Tigers. Salazar (6-6), who has pitched 17 consecutive scoreless innings, was given a loud ovation by the sparse crowd of 11,739 when he took the mound for the ninth. The fans were on their feet throughout the inning and roared when Nick Castelgame. Salazar pumped his fist after Castellanos swung and missed at his 118th pitch. Carlos Santana hit a two-run homer in the first off Justin Verlander (12-12), who allowed seventh runs in 6 2-3 innings.

ORIOLES 6, REDS 0

BALTIMORE (AP) — Miguel Gonzalez pitched a fourhitter for his first career complete game, and the Orioles hit three home runs off Dylan Axelrod in a victory over the Reds.

Gonzalez (8-7) had a season-high eight strikeouts, walked one and allowed only one hit through the first seven innings — a line drive single to Ryan Ludwick in the fifth.



With passing trend, is Peterson last great back?

DAVE CAMPBELL AP Pro Football Writer MANKATO, Minnesota

(AP) — Jim Brown spinning his way through the line and breaking loose in the secondary with a burst of

Walter Payton lowering a stiff arm and tearing away from the tackler with those long, almost-straight-leg strides.

Barry Sanders slithering around in the backfield and finding a seam to dart through.

Those are the enduring images of grit, perseverance and even elegance on which the NFL's multibilliondollar empire was first built.

These days the workhorses have become a fading breed. Quarterbacks are the unquestioned stars of the modern game.

"We're not getting the ball 30 times or 20-something times a game. Sometimes I get the ball 10 times and the rest of it is catches," Kansas City's Jamaal Charles said. "It's just the way they use me now. The game has changed."

Adrian Peterson nearly broke Eric Dickerson's NFL single-season rushing record in 2012 on his way to winning the league's MVP award for Minnesota. At this rate, though, Peterson could be the last running back to get one. Even he, with that relentless nature and throwback style, has acknowledged an acceptance of the shift in this role. "I'm trying to win a championship, so if that's taking less of a pounding and being more productive in the pass game, I'm all in for it," Peter-



In this Dec. 1, 2013, file photo, Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson, left, tries to break a tackle from Chicago Bears free safety Chris Conte during the fourth quarter of an NFL football game in Minneapolis.

son said.

At age 29, Peterson is perhaps the NFL's last great workhorse running back.

Maybe someone a year or two younger like Charles or Seattle's Marshawn Lynch or Philadelphia's LeSean McCoy will pass Peterson on the all-time list and defy the trend with a productive career into his mid-30s. But there are many signs that won't happen:

— For the second straight draft, no running backs were selected in the first round, an absence not seen since 1963. Over the last five years, a total of seven running backs were first-round picks. From 2000-2004, there were 15. From 1985-1989, there were 25.

 Last year, only McCoy and Lynch ran the ball 300 or more times. In 2003, 13 players did that.

- Only nine teams in the league last season had one player take 60 percent or



In this Jan. 2, 1966, file photo, Cleveland fullback Jim Brown (32) turns the corner as a Green Bay Packer defender swings with him in Green Bay, Wisc. **Associated Press**

more of their rushing attempts, down from 14 in 2003 and 14 in 1998. Nine teams also had two players with 30 percent or more carries last year, up from five in 2003.

— Last season's leader in team rushing attempt percentage was Chicago's Matt Forte with 72 percent, and he's not close to appearing on an all-time list. According to STATS research, the most recent player in the top 20 was Edgerrin James with 81 percent for Arizona in 2007. Even Peterson has never topped 72 percent in his career. James has the most in history, according to STATS, with 89 percent for Indianapolis in

— Only two of the last 10 Super Bowl champions have featured a 300-carry running back: Lynch last season and Corey Dillon for New England in 2004-05. The New York Giants finished last in the league in rushing in 2011 and still went on to win the title.

So how in the name of Emmitt Smith did the game get to this point?

With players bigger, faster and stronger, the guys running the ball now are simply more prone to getting beat up than their predecessors

from the previous generations. Teams must constantly develop replacements not only for down the road when the featured runner turns 30 but for in-game breaks to keep him fresh. The committee approach can also help prevent the defense from getting too comfortable with one particular style. The evolution of the passing game, with Charles and the Chiefs as an example, has also essentially transformed several running plays per game into short throws.

Thus, teams have a hard time justifying paying running backs as their franchise players. Peterson is the outlier with a salary cap hit this year of more than \$14 million. The next-closest running back is McCoy at \$9.7 million. The money has been shifting not only toward the quarterbacks, but also the guys paid to protect them or catch their spirals. Even the guys that try to sack quarterbacks and intercept passes are making more than running backs.

The Seahawks were champions with Lynch as a bruising old-school running back, and San Francisco has been one of the league's best teams lately with a similar approach behind Frank Gore. Those teams also feature quarterbacks with exceptional running ability and the read option as a staple of their playbooks. The way they move the ball is far different than when the Chicago Bears used to build their offense around Payton. Fundamental changes have taken place. The NFL might not ever see another 400-carry running back. But maybe it's wise.

"If you're looking at what's going on here lately you'd think it's been devalued a little bit, just from a numbers standpoint and moneywise, too. But you always hear the league's kind of cyclical," Minnesota back Jerome Felton said. "I think if you look at teams that are successful, they do run the football. There's only so many Tom Bradys. There's only so many Peyton Mannings. So unless you have one of those guys, it's important to be able to run."

New York newspaper sacks Washington nickname

NEW YORK (AP) — One of of stories and columns. guage changes through pers says it will no longer use the name Redskins when writing about Washington's NFL team.

The Daily News of New York said on Thursday in a lead editorial titled "Sack the Name" that the reference will no longer be part

America's largest newspa- The name, however, may the years, and "the time appear in quotations, reader letters, and discussion of the dispute. Also, the loao of a feathered Native American will be dropped, replaced by an image that features team

The editorial notes that lan-

has come to leave the word behind."

Other media outlets have also dropped the name. Last month, CBS analyst Phil Simms, who will handle Washington's Week 4 game, said he likely won't use the nickname.



Stolen photos of stars find 'safe harbor' online

MICHAEL LIEDTKE
AP Technology Writer
SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Imagine what the Internet would be like if most major websites had imposed controls preventing the naked photos stolen from Oscar-winning actress Jennifer Lawrence and other celebrities from being posted online.

The Internet would be less sleazy, but pre-screening more content might also mute its role as a megaphone for exposing abuses in government, big companies and other powerful institutions.

To preserve the Internet as a free-wheeling forum, the U.S. Congress included a key provision in a 1998 law called the Digital Millennium Copyright Act that governs the online distribution of photos, video and text.

A "safe harbor" clause absolves websites of any legal liability for virtually all content posted on their services. The law, known as the DMCA, requires websites and other Internet service providers to remove a piece of content believed to be infringing on a copyright after being notified of a violation by the copyright owner.

Websites have been busily pulling the naked photos of Lawrence and other victims of the high-tech theft presumably because they are being notified of copyright violations or because the images violate the sites' terms of service. The copyright infringements are fairly blatant: The photos were likely taken by either the celebrities themselves or by someone else besides the thieves who hacked into their online accounts to heist copies stored on computers for online backup services such as Apple Inc.'s iCloud.

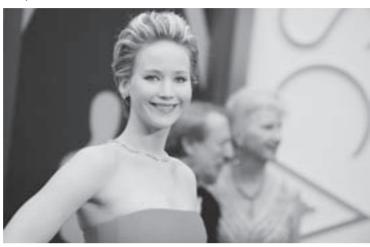
But the stolen photos weren't removed quickly enough to prevent an unknown number of people from making their own copies on their smartphones, tablets and personal computers.

Although the intrusion into the privacy of Lawrence and other stars probably would have been less rampant if websites weren't protected by the DMCA, most legal experts question whether requiring Internet companies to review content more vigilantly before it's posted would be worth

content to be posted in the first place.

Some of the safe-harbor

Some of the safe-harbor protections have faced legal challenges, including a high-profile lawsuit that entertainment conglomerate Viacom Inc. filed against YouTube after the video



In this March 2, 2014 file photo, Jennifer Lawrence arrives at the Oscarsat the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles. As the celebrity photo-hacking scandal has made clear, privacy isn't what it used to be. Whether famous or seemingly anonymous, people from all walks of life put all sorts of things online or into cloud-based storage systems, from vital financial information to the occasional nude photo. Periodic cases of hacking fuel outrage, but there's no retreat from digital engagement or any imminent promise of guaranteed privacy. Associated Press

setting precedents that could stifle free expression. "If there is anything the American public dislikes more than an invasion of privacy, it's censorship," says Bruce Sunstein, a Boston attorney specializing in intellectual property rights. HOW DID THE DMCA COME ABOUT?

As more people began to surf the Web in the mid-1990s, it became increasingly apparent that the Internet was making it easier for people to acquire and post all kinds of content. This made copyright violations more widespread, but music labels, movie studios and book publishers had to go to court to obtain orders to remove each piece of illegal content.

The DMCA represented Congress' attempt to address the copyright challenges posed by the Internet. Among other things, the legislation gave copyright holders a way to request their content to be removed simply by sending an email. Lawmakers also included the safe harbor provision to protect websites from lawsuits alleging that they should never have allowed the

site was sold to Google for \$1.76 billion in 2006. Viacom alleged that YouTube management allowed copyrighted video to be brazenly uploaded to their site because they knew the material would attract more viewers and drive up the value of their company. Google and YouTube ultimately prevailed in the bitter dispute, largely because of the DMCA's safe harbor.

WHY WAS A SAFE HARBOR NEEDED?

If websites could be held liable for copyright violations, they would be thrust into the position of making judgment calls on a piece of content before it's posted online. That would be a daunting task, given the volume of material that Web surfers share on the Internet today. About 144,000 hours of video are uploaded to YouTube alone each day, while Twitter processes more than 500 million tweets per day and Facebook's 1.3 billion users share billions of photos. "The platforms that host that content can't readily police all of it the way that a newspaper can carefully select what should go in as a letter to the editor," says Harvard University Law School professor Jonathan Zittrain, who is also cofounder of the Berkman Center for Internet & Society. Some pre-screening of content is still done. YouTube prevents some video from being posted through a copyright-screening tool that was created after Google took over. Not all copyright violations are caught, so Google is still inundated with takedown requests. In the past month alone, Google says it received requests to remove more than 31 million links in its search engine index directing traffic to content cited as copyright violations. That number doesn't include content posted on YouTube or its blogging service. Google says it complies with the overwhelming majority of the takedown requests.

It's probably a good thing that websites aren't asked to decide what's legal and what's not, says Corynne McSherry, intellectual property director for the Electronic Frontier Foundation, a group focused on digital rights. She worries big companies would likely to err on the side of caution and block more content than necessary because they wouldn't want to risk being held liable for something that could dent their earnings and stock price.

Clooney to helm film about British hacking scandal

CULVER CITY, California (AP) — Sony Pictures announced Wednesday that George Clooney will coproduce and direct the film version of "Hack Attack," reporter Nick Davies' book about the British phone hacking scandal. Clooney said in a statement the account has "all the elements — lying, corruption, blackmail — at the highest levels of government by the biggest newspaper in London."

Clooney, who is the son of a journalist, called Davies "a brave and stubborn reporter" and said it was "an honor to put his book to film."

Davies investigated Rupert Murdock's News Corp. and subsidiary News In-



This Sunday, Feb. 9, 2014 file photo George Clooney is interviewed by Fabio Fazio during the Italian State RAITV program "Che Tempo che Fa", in Milan, Italy.

Associated Press

ternational for more than six years. His book details widespread hacking of voice mail of public officials, celebrities and ordinary citizens. The scandal drew widespread attention and sent tremors through British politics.

The movie starts shooting next year. □



Stocks flat as oil drop offsets ECB stimulus

STEVE ROTHWELL AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A slump in oil prices weighed on the stock market Thursday, pushing the Standard & Poor's 500 index to its third straight loss.

Stocks had started the day higher after the European Central Bank surprised investors by announcing that it had cut its benchmark interest rate to a record low and planned to purchase asset-backed securities in an effort to stimulate the region's ailing economy. Investors were also cheered by some encouraging reports on the U.S. economy. The gains didn't hold though and the market fell back during afternoon trading, as the falling price of oil pushed energy stocks lower. Oil closed the day down 1.1 percent at \$94.45 a barrel, dropping after government data showed that U.S. supplies fell less than expected last week. Traders may also have been reluctant to place big bets ahead of Friday's closely watched government jobs report.

Stocks have made a sluggish start to September, historically the worst month for the market, after surging in August. The S&P 500 gained 3.8 percent last month, climbing to a record high as it logged its best perfor-

mance since February.

"The market did respond to the ECB news this morning and certainly to the good economic news, but there are definite signs that this market is stretched a bit," said Peter Cardillo, chief points. The Nasdaq composite dropped 10.28 points, or 0.2 percent, to 4,562.29.

Stocks had climbed in early trading, following a move higher by major indexes in Europe, after the ECB's



Trader Leon Montana works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. — A slump in oil prices weighed on the stock market Thursday, pushing the Standard & Poor's 500 index to its third straight loss.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

market economist at Rockwell Global Capital.

The S&P 500 index fell three points, or 0.2 percent, to 1,997.65. The index closed below the 2,000 points for the first time since it breached that level Aug. 29

The Dow Jones industrial average fell eight points, or 0.1 percent to 17,069.58

surprise announcement. Some analysts had been expecting the central bank to say it was preparing a new stimulus program, but most did not expect an announcement as early as this week.

The ECB said it had trimmed its benchmark interest rate to 0.05 percent from a previous record low of 0.15

percent. In a news conference, ECB President Mario Draghi also said the bank would also start purchases of private sector financial assets in October. The program aims to make credit cheaper, helping investment and growth at a time when the economy of the 18-country eurozone has stalled.n As well as boosting stocks, the announcement caused the euro to slump against the dollar, pushing it to its lowest level against the U.S. currency in more than a year. Europe's single currency, which has been in retreat over the past few weeks on expectations that the ECB may pursue further stimulus measures, fell 1.5 percent to \$1.29 per euro. There was also encouraging news for investors on the U.S. economy on Thurs-

day.
U.S. services firms expanded in August at the fastest pace on record. The Institute for Supply Management said Thursday that its services index rose to 59.6 last month from 58.7 in July. The August figure is the

highest recorded since the

measure was introduced in

January 2008.
Hiring is also picking up and U.S. businesses added jobs at a healthy pace in August, according to a private survey, the fifth straight month of solid gains.

Home Depot CEO: Probe of possible breach continues

A. D'INNOCENZIO AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Home Depot's outgoing CEO Frank Blake told investors Thursday that the nation's largest home-improvement chain continues to investigate a potential breach at the company and reassured that customers will not be liable for any potential fraudulent charges.

In his first public comments about the issue, Blake didn't confirm that a breach actually happened but said that Home Depot found out about the possible data theft early Tuesday.

He told investors during an address at the Goldman Sachs Global Retailing Conference on Thursday, that companies in this situation have a choice: to wait or "communicate the facts as you know them." "We chose the latter path," he said.

Blake told investors that Home Depot will be activating chip-enabled checkout terminals at all of its stores by the end of the year. That technology helps makes transactions more secure.

"Cybersecurity is a major issue," he added.

Home Depot said on Wednesday that it has hired security firms Symantec and FishNet Security to help it investigate the possible hacking.

The possible breach at Home Depot was first reported by Brian Krebs of Krebs on Security, a website that focuses on cybersecurity.

Krebs said multiple banks reported "evidence that Home Depot stores may be the source of a massive new batch of stolen credit and debit cards" that went on sale on the black market earlier Tuesday.

Hackers have broken security walls for many retailers in recent months, including Target, grocer Supervalu, restaurant chain P.F. Chang's and the thrift store operations of Goodwill.

US worker productivity up 2.3% in 2Q

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S.

workers' productivity increased in the April-June quarter after a big decline in the first quarter while their labor costs edged down slightly.

Productivity, the amount of output per hour of work, rose at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 2.3 percent in the second quarter, the Labor Department reported Thursday. That represented a large rebound from the first quarter when productivity fell at a 4.5 percent rate. Unit labor costs edged down 0.1 percent at an annual rate in the second quarter,

a significant moderation rate of 4.2 percent in the from an 11.6 percent surge spring quarter, a slight revision from its initial estimate

Gains in productivity mean workers can be paid more without worsening inflation. The new estimates for productivity and labor costs were revised from initial estimates a month ago that productivity rose 2.5 percent in the second quarter and unit labor costs were up 0.6 percent.

The changes were based on revisions the government made in its initial estimate of overall economic output, as measured by the gross domestic product. The government last week estimated that the GDP grew at an annual

spring quarter, a slight revision from its initial estimate of growth of 4 percent. Other factors such as hours worked and compensation costs also underwent revision between the first and second reports on productivity.

Greater productivity is the key factor determining rising living standards. It enables companies to pay their workers more without having to increase prices, which can boost inflation. Over the past 12 months, labor costs have risen a modest 1.7 percent. That is well below the long-run av-

erage of 2.8 percent and

suggests that wages and

salaries are not rising fast enough to spur inflation. The Federal Reserve keeps close watch on productivity and labor costs for any signs that inflation may be accelerating.

In the past 12 months, productivity has increased just 1.1 percent, below the long-run average of 2.2 percent.

Productivity growth surged in 2009 and 2010 in the aftermath of the recession. Companies did trim output as demand plunged, but the job cuts came even faster, driving productivity higher as fewer workers did more. Productivity grew 3.2 percent in 2009 and 3.3 percent in 2010.



Court rules for Yelp in suit over online ratings

SUDHIN THANAWALA Associated Press SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Online review site Yelp can lower or raise the rating of a business depending on whether it advertises with the company, a federal appeals court ruled in a lawsuit filed by small businesses claiming Yelp used the tactic to try to extort ads from them.

Yelp has denied doing that, saying it uses an automated system to cull reviews that determine ratings.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of is not unlawful for Yelp to Appeals ruled on Tuesday that even if Yelp did manipulate reviews to penalize businesses, the practice would not constitute extor-

The court said businesses do not have a right to positive reviews on Yelp, and that the San Franciscobased company can seek payments for its advertising. "The business owners may deem the posting or order of user reviews as a threat of economic harm, but it

post and sequence the reviews," Judge Marsha Berzon wrote for the threejudge panel. "As Yelp has the right to charge for legitimate advertising services, the threat of economic harm that Yelp leveraged is, at most, hard bargaining."

Berzon said the plaintiffs could pursue other claims involving Yelp, but the extortion allegation did not hold up.

Yelp said in a blog post on

its website that it has never altered business ratings for money.

"We are obviously happy that the court reached the right result, and saw through these thin attempts by a few businesses and their lawyers to disparage Yelp and draw attention away from their own occasional negative review," the company wrote.

The ruling supported a lower court decision that dismissed the lawsuit filed by businesses that said positive reviews disappeared from their Yelp page; their overall star rating dropped; or a negative review reappeared or was moved to the top of the review after they declined to purchase advertising from Yelp.

One of the businesses, Santa Barbara-based Cats and Dogs animal hospital, claimed a Yelp representative said the company would hide negative reviews or place them lower on the page in exchange for advertising.

Apple supplier in China accused of multiple violations

JOE McDONALD AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — An Apple supplier in China is violating safety and pay rules despite the computer giant's promises to improve conditions, two activist groups said Thursday, ahead of the expected release of the iPhone 6.

The report by China Labor Watch and Green America adds to a string of complaints about wage, safety and environmental conditions at China's network of contractors that produce most of the world's personal computers and mobile phones.

Global brands that rely on Chinese suppliers have responded by imposing wage and other standards and by carrying out regular inspections.

Violations at Catcher Tech-



Workers clean windows near Apple's retail store in Beijing, China. An Apple supplier in China is violating safety and pay rules despite the computer giant's promises to improve conditions, two activist groups said Thursday, Sept. 4, 2014, ahead of the release of the iPhone 6.

(AP Photo/Andy Wong)

nology's facility in the eastern city of Sugian have worsened since they were pointed out to Apple in April 2013 by China Labor Watch, the report said. At the time, Apple promised to remedy the problems. The report said employees affected worked on parts for the latest version of Apple's iPad and were later transferred to a facility that produces the iPhone 6.

An undercover investigator who got a job at the facility found violations including mandatory overtime of up to 100 hours per month, in excess of the legal limit of 36 hours, and failure to pay some wages to its 20,000 employees, the report said. It said violations of Apple policies included failing to give out protective gear and locking fire exits and windows.

Google settles with FTC over in-app charges

MAE ANDERSON AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Google has gareed to pay full refunds totaling at least \$19 million to consumers who were charged for purchases that children made via apps without parental consent from the Google Play app store.

The settlement is part of the third case by the Federal Trade Commission about unauthorized in-app purchases made by children. It settled with Apple for \$32.5 million in January and it filed

a complaint against Amazon, which has said it won't settle over the charges.

In Google's case, the FTC said that since 2011, consumers have reported children had made unauthorized charges ranging from 99 cents to \$200 within kids' apps downloaded from the Google Play store.

Most interaction with online services on mobile devices occurs through apps, as opposed to a Web browser, according to comScore. The firm estimates seven out of every eight minutes

of media consumption on mobile devices is done through an app. In the U.S., comScore estimates that the Android operating system covers 83.8 million smartphone subscribers vs. 67.4 million on iPhones.

According to the FTC complaint, when Google introduced in-app charges to the Google Play in 2011, they were not password protected.

As a result, children could buy virtual items just by clicking on popup boxes within an app while they

used it. In mid- to late-2012, Google instituted a pop-up box that asked for a password before a payment could be made but that still opened up a 30-minute window during which a password wasn't required. "For millions of American families, smartphones and tablets have become a part of their daily lives," said FTC Chairwoman Edith Ramirez. "As more Americans embrace mobile technology, it's vital to re-

mind companies that time-

tested consumer protec-

tions still apply, including that consumers should not be charged for purchases they did not authorize."

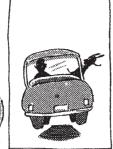
The settlement will require Google to provide full refunds of unauthorized inapp charges incurred by children of at least \$19 million within 12 months after the settlement becomes final. Google is also required to change its billing practices to obtain express, informed consent from consumers before billing them for in-app charges.

Bruba 1001/17

Mutts

IT WAS TWENTY YEARS AGO TODAY...

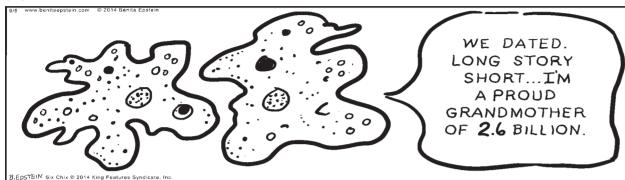








6 Chix



Blondie



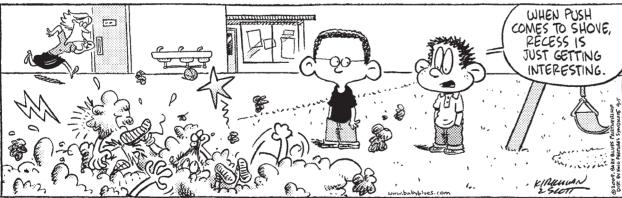




Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits







Conceptis Sudoku

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Difficulty Level ★★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

er	3	4	6	1	8	2	7	5	9
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ACROSS

- Sweet potato the floor
- walked back and forth 9 Compact CD
- 13 Secondhand 15 Make amends
- 16 Smidgen
- 17 Fib teller
- 18 Obeys 19 Fills with
- wonder 20 Suffering from insomnia
- 22 Water barriers 23 Venetian blind
- piece 24 Retina's place 26 Sudden muscle
- contractions 29 Primary; main
- 34 Fancy cracker spreads 35 Beats decisively
- 36 Boxing great Muhammad 37 Grooves

4 Lowlands of

5 Leaning

6 Ice cream

7 Stops 8 Pies & eclairs

scoop holder

9 Royal crown

10 Des Moines,

11 Flower stalk

12 Late singer

Mama

21 Lawn trees

25 Affirmative

26 Unrestraine

28 Upper room

29 One's strong

point 30 Pitcher's

delights

31 Rowed

32 Item on a

playground

33 Gauged with a

stopwatch

spending binge

27 Reiser & Simon

14 Frocks

South America

- 38 Sahl & others 39 Teacup's edge 40 Cotton gin man
- Whitney 41 Chairs & stools 42 Napped leather 43 Wild adventure
- 45 Like a parka 46 Traitor 47 Properly
- 48 Cartoon bear 51 Well-known 56 Runs up a tab 57 Happening 58 Person, place
- 60 Merriment 61 In a __; sort of 62 "A __ of Two
- Cities" 63 Invites 64 Derisive smile
- 65 Kitten's cry

DOWN 1 Actor Brynner

- 2 In the existing condition 3 Lunch or dinner 35 Hit the __; go

Thursday's Puzzle Solved														
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- 38 Like vegetarian 48 Meditative meals
- 39 Able to float 41 Jacuzzi 42 Auctioneer's cry
- 44 Ascends 45 Actor Tab 47 Thickly
- exercise 49 Hooting birds 50 Computer whiz 52 Like 2, 4 and 6
- 53 Autry or Wilder 54 Wander 55 Christmas populated 59 Just purchased



How caffeine evolved to help plants survive and help people wake up

CARL ZIMMER © 2014 New York Times

Every second, people around the world drink more than 26,000 cups of coffee. And while some of them may care only about the taste, most use it as a way to deliver caffeine into their bloodstream. Caffeine is the most widely consumed psychoactive substance in the world.

Many of us get our caffeine fix in tea, and still others drink mate, brewed from the South American yerba mate plant. Cacao plants produce caffeine, too, meaning that you can get a mild dose from eating chocolate.

Caffeine may be a drug, but it's not the product of some underworld chemistry lab; rather, it's the result of millions of years of plant evolution. Despite our huge appetite for caffeine, however, scientists know little about how and why plants make it.

A new study is helping to change that. An international team of scientists has sequenced the genome of Coffea canephora, one of the main sources of coffee beans. By analyzing its genes, the scientists were able to reconstruct how coffee gained the biochemical equipment necessary to make caffeine.

The new study, published Thursday in the journal Science, sheds light on how plants evolved to make caffeine as a way to control the behavior of animals - and, indirectly,

Caffeine starts out in coffee plants as a precursor compound called xanthosine. The coffee plant makes an enzyme that chops off a dangling arm of atoms from the xanthosine; a second enzyme adds a cluster of atoms at another spot. The plant then uses two additional enzymes to add two additional clusters. Once the process is complete, they've turned xanthosine into caffeine.

The process may seem extraordinarily complex,

but the new coffee genome study offers a detailed look at how it evolved.

caffeine-building The enzymes belong to a aroup of enzymes called N-methyltransferases. They're found in all plants, and they build a variety of compounds. Many of these molecules serve as weapons against enemies of the plants. Sometimes, those weapons turn out to be valuable to us. Salicylic acid, first discovered in willow trees, became the basis for aspirin, for example.

The evolution of caffeine in coffee started when the gene for an N-methyltransferase mutated,

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changing how the enzyme behaved. Later, the plants accidentally duplicated the mutated gene, creating new copies. Those copies then mutated into still other forms.

"They're all descendants of a common ancestor enzyme that started screwing around with xanthosine compounds," said Victor A. Albert, an evolutionary biologist at the University of Buffalo and coauthor of the new study. Scientists had already determined that caffeine was also made in other plants, like tea and cacao, by Nmethyltransferases.

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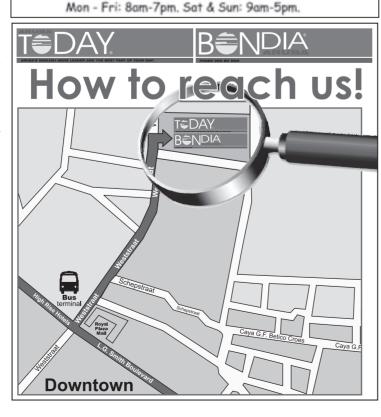
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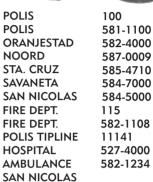


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Warming Gulf of Maine imperils lobster, fish catch

PATRICK WHITTLE Associated Press FRIENDSHIP, Maine (AP) —

The New England region's famous fish and lobster could one day disappear, and its rocky beaches could become invisible, obscured by constant high waters.

It's already starting to happen. The culprit is the warming seas along the North Atlantic — and in particular the Gulf of Maine, whose waters are heating up faster than 99 percent of the world's oceans, scientists say.

Long-established species of commercial fish, like cod, herring and northern shrimp, are departing for colder waters. Black sea bass, blue crabs and new species of squid — all highly unusual for the Gulf — are turning up in fishermen's nets.

The Gulf of Maine's warming reflects broader trends around the North Atlantic. But the statistic — accepted by scientists at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration — underscores particular fears about the Gulf's unique ecosystem and the lucrative fishing industries it supports for three U.S. states and two Canadian provinces.

"These changes are very real, and we're seeing them happen quickly," said Malin Pinsky, a biology professor at New Jersey's Rutgers University who studies ocean temperature change and was not involved in the research that resulted in the 99 percent statistic.

It is a rallying point for environmental activists, who see the response to the temperature rise and its impact on fisheries as a touchstone for the alobal debate about climate change.

"The warming is already here," said Jeff Young, a spokesman for Pew Charitable Trust's oceans project, which has campaigned in favor of restrictions on fishing for herring, another species leaving for colder water. "And we

But the rising sea has prevented her from aettina there much since 2010, she said, because it's almost always underwater.

On a recent August morning, she made it to the site and found 19 young lobsters — far down from the huge colonies she found seven years ago, she said. "Things have changed dramatically," she said.

Institute and the man behind the 99 percent figure. But then the pace accelerated to about a half-degree F per year — nearly 10 times faster.

Scientists are not certain why. The rest of the oceans are also warming, albeit not as fast, as increased carbon dioxide in the air has contributed to rising temperatures, Pershing lantic current that originates in the Gulf of Mexico and keeps Europe mild, warmed the ocean off the Northeast.

The Gulf of Maine's temperature is expected to rise more than 4 degrees Fahrenheit by the end of the century, Pinsky said.

The 99 percent statistic isn't arbitrary. Pershing and others compared ocean trends and presented the figure to NOAA in April.

Pershing's work illustrates that the Gulf is indeed among the fastest-warming bodies of water, said Roger Griffis, climate change coordinator for NOAA Fisheries Service.

The Gulf of Maine, he said, is "one of the poster children, unfortunately, for major changes."

Its historical chill and strong tidal currents, which mix the waters and increase nutrients, make it one of the most productive marine ecosystems and a key summer territory for rare whales.

But half of 36 fish stocks studied in the Northwest Atlantic Ocean, including many commercial species, have been shifting northward over the past 40 years, a 2009 NOAA report said. Ironically, the warmer water has created ideal conditions for lobsters and contributed to an overabundance in recent years, causing prices to tumble to their lowest point in nearly two decades in Maine. But continued warming could force to them to move north or die

off, Steneck said.



In this Wednesday, Aug. 13, 2014 photo, Diane Cowan, executive director and senior scientist of the Lobster Conservancy, reads a caliper while measuring a juvenile lobster on the shore of Friendship Long Island, Maine. **Associated Press**

have to deal with it."

The rising waters in the Gulf — a big dent in the East Coast stretching from Massachusetts to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick have interfered with the work of Diane Cowan, founder of the Lobster Conservancy, who has conducted lobster censuses in the northeastern New England states for 22 years. The shore of a cove off Maine's Friendship Long Island has long been the best site on the East Coast to find baby lobsters, she said. Around 2007, she couldn't lift a rock without finding one, and usually found several.

The rising sea is connected to the warming waters because higher temperatures make the water less dense, said Bob Steneck, a professor at the University of Maine's School of Marine Sciences.

Until 2004, Gulf temperatures were increasing by about 0.05 degrees Fahrenheit (.3 degrees Celsius) per year since 1982, about in line with worldwide trends, said Andy Pershing, chief scientific officer at the Gulf of Maine Research

"Atmospheric events" could be pushing additional heat into the Gulf, causing a "perfect storm" of conditions that combine to dramatically raise temperatures there, said Nick Record, a research scientist at the Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences, a Maine center for oceanography. Pershing and many peers agree.

Another possible cause, Pershing said, is that shifts in the Gulf stream, the At-



Asteroid will zoom within 25,000 miles of Earth

MARCIA DUNN **AP Aerospace Writer** CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida our highest communica- considerable damage. (AP) — A newly discovered asteroid will buzz Earth this weekend.

At closest approach Sunday, the 60-foot rock will pass a safe 25,000 miles (40,200 kilometers) over New Zealand. That's about one-tenth the distance be-

tween here and the moon. sphere over Russia's Ural tion and weather satellites. NASA says this latest near-Earth asteroid — called 20214 RC (R-C) — poses no threat to either the home planet or orbiting spacecraft. A space rock of about the same size blasted through the atmo-

It's also beyond the orbit of Mountains in 2013, causing Astronomers in Arizona de-

tected 2014 RC the night of Aug. 31.

Stargazers will need telescopes to see Sunday's flyby. If you miss it, don't worry. It will be back in the neighborhood again someday.



Legendary comedian Joan Rivers dead at 81

AP Television Writer

Joan Rivers, the raucous, acid-tongued comedian who crashed the maledominated realm of latenight talk shows and turned Hollywood red carpets into danger zones for badly dressed celebrities, died Thursday. She was 81.

Rivers died at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York, surrounded by family and close friends, daughter Melissa Rivers said. She was hospitalized Aug. 28 after going into cardiac arrest in a doctor's office following a routine procedure. The New York state health department is investigating the circumstances.

"My mother's greatest joy in life was to make people laugh," Melissa Rivers said. "Although that is difficult to do right now, I know her final wish would be that we return to laughing soon."

Under the immobile, plastic surgery-crafted veneer that became Joan Rivers' unapologetic trademark as she aged, her wit remained as vibrantly raw and unruly as when she first broke her way into a comedy world belonging largely to men.

In a 2010 "Late Show" interview, David Letterman broached the plastic surgery issue: "You don't look exactly like the Joan Rivers I used to know." Rivers was unapologetic.

"Our business is so youthful. ... You do little tweaks, and I think if a woman wants to look good, or a man, do it," she said. "It's not about anybody else."

Fashion and acting were the early dreams of the woman who grew up as a self-described "fatty," but it was humor that paid the bills and ultimately made Rivers a star. She refused to cede the spotlight as the decades passed, working vigorously until her death.

"I have never wanted to be a day less than I am," she said in a 2013 interview with The Associated Press. "People say, 'I wish I were 30 again.' Nahhh! I'm very happy HERE. It's great. It aets better and better. And then, of course, we



In this Sunday, July 26, 2009 file photo, Joan Rivers greets the audience at the "Comedy Central Roast of Joan Rivers" in Los Angeles. **Associated Press**

die," she quipped.

Rivers was a scrapper, rebuilding her career and life after a failed attempt to make it as a late-night host was followed closely by her husband's suicide.

Rivers' style was hard-driving from the start and her material only got sharper. She was ready to slam anyone. A favored target was Elizabeth Taylor's weight

tainment. Her familiar query — "Who are you wearina?" — would quickly give way to such snarky commentary as her assessment of Adele's Grammy outfit: The singer looked like she was sitting on a teapot.

The barbs could turn inward as well, with Rivers mocking everything from her proclaimed lack of sex appeal ("my best birth



This April 30, 2012 file photo shows comedian and TV host Joan Rivers from the show "Fashion Police" and her daughter Melissa Rivers at an E! Network upfront event in New York.

Associated Press

("her favorite food is sec- control now is just to leave onds"), but the comedian the lights on") to her own kept current with verbal assaults on Miley Cyrus and other newcomers.

With her raspy voice and brash New York accent, Rivers turned the red carpet of the Oscars, Emmys and Golden Globes into a stalking ground for E! Entermortality.

In 2007, Rivers and her partner-in-slime, daughter Melissa, were dropped by their new employer, the TV Guide Channel, and replaced by actress Lisa Rinna. But the Rivers' women found new success on

major factor, Rivers said. Rosenberg's suicide also temporarily derailed her

The show's failure was a

"Nobody wants to see someone whose husband has killed himself do comedy four weeks later," she told The New York Times in 1990.

Rivers had originally entered show business with the dream of being an actress, but comedy was a way to pay the bills while she auditioned for dramatic roles. "Somebody said, 'You can make six dollars standing up in a club,"" she told the AP, "and I said, 'Here I go!' It was better than typing all day."

In the early 1960s, comedy was a man's game and the only women comics



In this July 26, 1989 file photo, comedian Joan Rivers poses next to her star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame during her induction ceremony in Los Angeles. **Associated Press**

E! with "Fashion Police," which Rivers hosted and her daughter produced. Joan Rivers never relaxed, always looking for the next and better punchline.

"The trouble with me is, I make jokes too often," she told the AP in 2013, just days after the death of her older sister. "I was making jokes yesterday at the funeral home. That's how I get through life. Life is SO difficult — everybody's been through something! But you laugh at it, it becomes smaller."

She had faced true crisis in the mid-1980s. Edgar Rosenberg, her husband of 23 years, committed suicide in 1987 after she was fired from her Fox talk show, which he produced.

she could look to were Totie Fields and Phyllis Diller. But she worked her way up from local clubs in New York until, in 1965, she landed her big break on "The Tonight Show" after numerous rejections. "God, you're funny. You're going to be a star," host Johnny Carson told her after she had rocked the audience with laughter.

Her nightclub career prospered and by late that year she had recorded her first comedy album, "Joan Rivers Presents Mr. Phyllis and Other Funny Stories." Her personal life picked up as well: She met British producer Rosenberg and they married after a four-day courtship.

Aruba TODAY

Scarlett Johansson and fiance welcome baby girl

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Scarlett Johansson is a first-time mom.

A spokesman for the 29-year-old actress told The Associated Press Thursday that Johansson and her fiance, Romain Dauriac, have welcomed a baby girl, whom they've named Rose.

Marcel Pariseau says mother and daughter are doing well.

He added that the couple is seeking privacy and are supporters of the No Kids Policy, the celebrity effort to keep famous folks' children out of the public eye. Johansson and Dauriac, a French former journalist, have been engaged since September, 2013. She was previously married to Ryan Reynolds.

Johansson's recent credits include the films "Lucy," "Chef," and "Captain America: The Winter Soldier."



In this Feb. 28, 2014 file photo, U.S. actress Scarlett Johansson, left, and her partner Romain Dauriac arrive at the 39th French Cesar Awards Ceremony, in Paris. Associated Press

Shirley Jones, Patrick Cassidy star in 'Music Man'



This undated image released by David Gersten & Associates shows Patrick Cassidy, left, with his mother, actress-singer Shirley Jones. Jones is about to hit the road in a concert version of "The Music Man."

Associated Press

MARK KENNEDY AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Academy Award winner Shirley Jones is about to hit the road with a concert version of "The Music Man" and she's bringing along a special guest — her son, Patrick Cassidy.

Jones, who starred as the librarian love interest in the 1957 classic film version, will start a seven-state tour this month with her middle son playing con man Harold Hill. The two have a long history with the musical: She was pregnant with Patrick while the film was being shot.

The new concert mixes some of the songs by Meredith Willson with behind-the-scenes stories by Jones about filming the movie opposite Robert Preston and a tale or two from Cassidy, who credits "The Music Man" for sparking his love of performing.

Jones this time will play Mrs. Paroo — the mother of the librarian — and also be host of the show, which Cassidy helped develop. Mother and son will be backed by a cast of 12 actors, an orchestra and projected photos and images.

"It's been a real wonderful

process in putting it together because I've gained so much more insight about the movie and about my mom's experience on the movie with Preston," said Cassidy. "And I tell a story: 'The Music Man' itself is the reason I became an actor.'"

Performances will begin in Wilson's home town of Mason City, lowa, on Sept. 18, and stops include Prior Lake, Minnesota; Paducah, Kentucky; Topeka, Kansas; Springfield, Missouri; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; and Little Rock, Arkansas.

The new tour is the just latest collaboration between Jones and Cassidy. They've often performed together — including being the first mother and son to star in a Broadway musical in "42nd Street" — ever since he made an "appearance" in his mother's belly on film. It will also be the fifth version of "The Music Man" they've done together. Singing with his mom is a pleasure, he says. "I'm the middle son of my mom's three and they say middle children tend to be peacemakers as well. I don't know about that but I do know that I am definitely a momma's boy," he says. "We've gotten to perform a lot together and there's nothing better."

Perez, Wallace join 'The View'

NEW YORK (AP) — Actress Rosie Perez and Republican media operative Nicolle Wallace are joining ABC's daytime chat show, "The View."

The network said Wednesday that the two will join Whoopi Goldberg and Rosie O'Donnell on the panel for the show's new season, beginning Sept. 15. Goldberg is the only holdover on the program, where creator Barbara Walters retired from an onscreen role this spring and longtime producer Bill Geddie left after learning a new offscreen boss was taking over.

Perez is an actress and choreographer who has appeared in the movies "Do the Right Thing" and "Fearless." Wallace, a political analyst for MSNBC, was communications chief for President George W. Bush's reelection cam-



In this June 10, 2014 file photo, Rosie Perez arrives at the Samsung Hope for Children Gala 2014 in New York. Perez and Republican media operative Nicolle Wallace are joining ABC's daytime chat show, "The View," for its new season, beginning Sept. 15.

Associated Press

paign and was an adviser on John McCain's 2008 campaign.q

Lea Thompson, Tommy Chong among new 'Dancing' pack

NEW YORK (AP) — Actress Lea Thompson, "Duck Dynasty" diva Sadie Robertson and NASCAR driver Michael Waltrip are making tracks for the new season of "Dancing With the Stars."

ABC on Thursday announced the 13 contestants for its fall round of the dancing competition. They also include talk-show host Tavis Smiley, "Pretty Little Liars" star Janel Parrish, Olympic athlete Lolo Jones, actor Antonio Sabato Jr. and fashion designer Betsey Johnson.

Other amateur hoofers include comedy veteran Tommy Chong, YouTube star Bethany Mota, Ultimate Fighting champ Randy Couture, "Mean Girls" star Jonathan Bennett and actor-dancer Alfonso Ribeiro.

The new lineup was unveiled on "Good



In this July 17, 2014 file photo, Olympic bobsledder Lolo Jones arrives at the Kids' Choice Sports Awards in Los Angeles. Associated Press

Morning America."

The 19th season of "Dancing" premieres Sept. 15. Tom Bergeron and Erin Andrews return as co-hosts.

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The Medicare Miracle



PAUL KRUGMAN © 2014 New York Times

So, what do you think about those Medicare numbers? What, you haven't heard about them? Well, they haven't been frontpage news. But something remarkable has been happening on the health-spending front, and it should (but probably won't) transform a lot of our political debate.

The story so far: We've all seen projections of giant federal deficits over the next few decades, and there's a whole industry devoted to issuing dire warnings about the budget and demanding cuts in Socialsecuritymedicareandmedicaid. Policy wonks have long known, however, that there's no such program, and that health care, rather than retirement, was driving those scary projections. Why? Because, historically, health spending has grown much faster than GDP, and it was assumed that this trend would continue.

But a funny thing has happened: Health spending has slowed sharply, and it's already well below projections made just a few years ago. The falloff has been especially pronounced in Medicare, which is spending \$1,000 less per beneficiary than the Congressional Budget Office projected just four years ago.

This is a really big deal, in at least three ways.

First, our supposed fiscal crisis has been postponed, perhaps indefinitely. The federal government is still running deficits, but they're way down. True, the red ink is still likely to swell again in a few years, if only because more baby boomers will retire and start collecting benefits; but, these days, projections of federal debt as a percentage of GDP show it creeping up rather than soaring. We'll probably have to raise more revenue eventually, but the long-term fiscal gap now looks much more manageable than the deficit scolds would have you believe.

Second, the slowdown in Medicare helps refute one common explanation of the health-cost slowdown: that it's mainly the product of a depressed econmy, and that spending will surge again once the economy recovers. That could explain low private spending, but Medicare is a government program, and shouldn't be affected by the recession. In other words, the good news on health costs is for real. But what accounts for this good

news? The third big implication of

the Medicare cost miracle is that everything the usual suspects have been saying about fiscal responsibility is wrong.

For years, pundits have accused President Barack Obama of failing to take on entitlement spending. These accusations always involved magical thinking on the politics, assuming that Obama could somehow get Republicans to negotiate in good faith if only he really wanted to. But they also implicitly dismissed as worthless all the cost-control measures included in the Affordable Care Act. Inside the Beltway, cost control apparently isn't considered real unless it involves slashing benefits.

One pundit went so far as to say, after the Obama administration rejected proposals to raise the eligibility age for Medicare, "America gets the shaft."

It turns out, however, that raising the Medicare age would hardly save any money. Meanwhile, Medicare is spending much less than expected, and those Obamacare cost-saving measures are at least part of the story. The conventional wisdom on what is and isn't serious is completely wrong.

While we're on the subject of health costs, there are two other stories you should know about.

One involves the supposed savings from running Medicare through for-profit insurance companies. That's the way the drug benefit works, and conservatives love to point out that this benefit has ended up costing much less than projected, which they claim proves that privatization is the way to go. But the budget office has a new report on this issue, and it finds that privatization had nothing to do with it. Instead, Medicare Part D is costing less than expected partly because enrollment has been low and partly because an absence of new blockbuster drugs has led to an overall slowdown in pharmaceutical spending.

The other involves the "sticker shock" that opponents of health reform have been predicting for years. Bulletin: It's still not happening. Overall, health insurance premiums seem likely to rise only modestly next year, and they are on track to be flat or even falling in several states, including Connecticut and Arkansas.

What's the moral here? For years, pundits and politicians have insisted that guaranteed health care is an impossible dream, even though every other advanced country has it. Covering the uninsured was supposed to be unaffordable; Medicare as we know it was supposed to be unsustainable. But it turns out that incremental steps to improve incentives and reduce costs can achieve a lot, and covering the uninsured isn't hard at all.

When it comes to ensuring that Americans have access to health care, the message of the data is simple: Yes, we can.



President Obama's Messy Words



FRANK BRUNI © 2014 New York Times

There are things that you think and things that you say.

There's what you reckon with privately and what you utter publicly.

There are discussions suitable for a lecture hall and those that befit the bully pulpit.

These sets overlap but aren't the same. Has President Barack Obama lost sight of that?

It's a question fairly asked after his statement last week that "we don't have a strategy yet" for dealing with Islamic extremists in Syria. Not having a strategy, at least a fixed, definitive one, is understandable. The options aren't great, the answers aren't easy and the stakes are enormous.

But announcing as much? It's hard to see any percentage in that. It gives no comfort to Americans. It puts no fear in our enemies.

Just as curious was what Obama followed that up with.

Speaking at a fundraiser Friday, he told donors, "If you watch the nightly news, it feels like the world is falling apart." He had that much riaht.

But it wasn't the whole of his message. In a statement of the obvious, he also said, "The world has always been messy." And he coupled that with a

needless comparison, advising Americans to bear in mind that the rise of the Islamic State, the rapacity of Putin, the bedlam in Libya and the rest of it were "not something that is comparable to the challenges we faced during the Cold War.'

Set aside the question of how germane the example of the Cold War is. When the guttwisting image stuck in your head is of a masked madman holding a crude knife to the neck of an American on his knees in the desert, when you're reading about crucifixions in the 21st century, when you're hearing about women sold by jihadists as sex slaves, and when British leaders have just raised the threat level in their country to "severe," the last thing that you want to be told is that it's par for the historical course, all a matter of perspective and not so cosmically dire.

Where's the reassurance - or the sense of urgency - in that?

And maybe the second-to-last thing that you want to be told is that technology and social media amplify peril in a new way and may be the reason you're feeling especially on edge. Obama said something along those lines, too. It's not the terror, folks. It's the tweets.

Is the president consoling us - or himself? It's as if he's taken his interior monologue and wired it to speakers in the town square. And it's rattling.

When he came along, many of us were fed up with misinformation and "Mission Accomplished" theatrics and bluster. America had paid a price for them in young lives.

And we were tired and leery of an oversimplified, Hollywood version of world affairs, of the Manichaean lexicon of "evil empire" and "axis of evil." We longed for something less rash and more nuanced.

But there's plenty of territory between the bloated and bellicose rhetoric of then and what Obama is giving us now. He's adopted a strange language of self-effacement, with notes of defeatism, reminding us that "America, as the most powerful country on earth, still does not control everything"; that we must be content at times with singles and doubles in lieu of home runs; that not doing stupid stuff is its own accomplishment.

This is all true. It's in tune with our awareness of our limits. And it reflects a prudent disinclination to repeat past mistakes and overreach.

But that doesn't make it the right message for the world's lone superpower (whether we like it or not) to articulate and disseminate. That doesn't make it savvy, constructive PR. And the low marks that Americans currently give the president, especially for foreign policy, suggest that it's not exactly what we were after.

In The Washington Post on Sunday, Karen DeYoung and Dan Balz observed that while Obama's no-strategy remark "may have had the virtue of candor," it in no way projected "an image of presidential resolve or decisiveness at a time of international turmoil."

And no matter what Obama ultimately elects to do, such an image is vital. But in its place are oratorical shrugs and an aura of hesitancy, even evasion, as he and John Kerry broadcast that the United States shouldn't be expected to act on its own. Isn't that better whispered to our allies and negotiated behind closed doors?

Echoing Hillary Clinton to some degree, Sen. Dianne Feinstein just complained that Obama was perhaps "too cautious."

Not in what he says, he's not. Not when he draws and then erases red lines. Not with his recent adjectives.

"Messy" is my kitchen at the end of a long weekend. What's happening in much of Syria and Iraq is monstrous.



A House in the Hamptons with an Acoustical Shadow

STEVEN KURUTZ © 2014 New York Times

It took this reporter a few minutes to realize what was missing from the house that Paul Masi, owner of the architecture firm Bates-Masi, built two years ago for his family. While their three young children played upstairs, Masi and his wife, Liz, both 42, sat at a table in the open kitchen and living area, explaining their initial concern about building on the half-acre lot in the center of town, which they bought for \$840,000 in 2012. It was when Paul Masi mentioned the proximity to the main drag that everything clicked.

This was Labor Day weekend in the Hamptons. Lines poured out the door of the town's coffee shop. Traffic was snarled for miles. The scene achieved Times Sauare-level chaos, only with trees and fresh-baked pies. And yet inside the Masi residence, it was silent. The couple had even thrown open the slidingglass wall that runs the length of the room, transforming the yard into a grassy extension of the living space. The only sound was that of birds chirping.

"When you go out into the driveway, you can totally hear the traffic," Paul Masi said. "In here, you can't." Sound, and its absence, largely informed home's design. Anticipating the noise problems, he began to study acoustics, revisiting past projects and examining how sound affected the experience of the space. In discussing how they wanted to live, the Masis also became conscious of what they hadn't liked about their previous home in a wooded area nearby. It was small, with Sheetrock walls and hard glass surfaces. A noise box.

"We realized we didn't like to entertain groups of people, because they were louder," Paul Masi said.

Liz Masi added: "You get fried. Enough with the kids screaming."

For their new home, Paul Masi created a series of stepped walls, starting with



In an undated handout photo, a home designed by Paul Masi for his wife, Liz, and their three children in the Hamptons. Located near Amagansett's main drag, Masi designed the home with sound-dampening in mind.

(Bates Masi Architects via The New York Times)

a free-standing wall along the exterior. They act as a sound barrier and cast the home in "an acoustical shadow," he said. As a building material, he used poured concrete, which he clad in cedar planks so the home would blend with the ble knobs on a stereo. landscape.

Inside, the two-story, 3,200-square-foot house, which they built for about \$2 million, has playful features that would delight an audio engineer. The stair boards, for instance, become thicker as they descend into the basement and thinner as they ascend upstairs, changing the frequency of one's footsteps as if turning the bass or tre-

And the walls in the living area are covered in gray felt overlaid with more cedar planks, in pairs connected by metal brackets. The felt helps absorb sound when the sliding glass wall is closed, and the planks are adjustable and even removable, allowing Masi to "tune the space."

He had other reasons for experimenting with sound. As a modern architect, he wanted to disprove the commonly held view that modernism is cold, which he believes can be attributed to the echo-y quality of many modern spaces. Apart from the lack of echo

here, there is an obvious warmth, because of the cedar and oak encasing the interior rooms, and the stylish use of materials like white marble (in the master bathroom) and weathered steel (in the stairwell and around a fireplace).

Still, the home does not escape another modernist cliché: emptiness. In the main living area, there is little more in the way of furniture than a table and several chairs.

The couple's downstairs bedroom is also simply furnished. Even the children's bedrooms are miraculously clutter-free.

That's when this reporter noticed that something beyond noise was missing. Family members spend most of their time in the open kitchen and living area, yet there were no dishes, no cookware or utensils, no visible signs that food is ever prepared or consumed here.

"We don't eat," Paul Masi said, looking serious.

Then he burst out laughing and opened a built-in cabinet - one of several throughout the house - that holds the messy realities of domestic life.

"No," he said. "Everything is hidden."



A Light Extending Table from De La Espada and chairs from Token in the home designed by Paul Masi in Amagansett, N.Y., Aug. 29, 2014.

(Eric Striffler/The New York Times)